

2  
A L L for L O V E:

*of Mary OR, Quin*

The W O R L D well lost.

A

T R A G E D Y.

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Written in Imitation of *Shakespear's* Stile,

By Mr. D R Y D E N.

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*Facile est verbum aliquod ardens (ut ita dicam) notare;  
idque restinctis animorum incendiis irridere.* Cicero.

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D U B L I N:

Printed by and for GEO. GRIERSON, at the  
Two Bibles in *Essex-Street*. MDCCXX.



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# PREFACE.

**T**HE Death of Anthony and Cleopatra, is a subject which has been treated by the greatest Wits of our Nation, after Shakespear; and by all so variously, that their example has giv'n me the confidence to try my self in this bow of Ulysses, amongst the crowd of Suitors; and withal, to take my own measures, in aiming at the mark. I doubt not that the same motive has prevailed with all of us in this attempt; I mean, the excellency of the moral: for the chief persons represented, were famous patterns of unlawful Love; and their end accordingly was unfortunate. All reasonable men have long since concluded, that the Hero of the Poem ought not to be a Character of perfect virtue; for then he could not, without injustice, be made unhappy; nor yet altogether wicked, because he could not then be pitied. I have therefore steer'd the middle course, and have drawn the Character of Anthony as favourably as Plutarch, Appian, and Dion Cassius wou'd give me leave. The like I have observ'd of Cleopatra. That which is wanting to work up the story to a greater height, was not afforded me by the story: for the crimes of Love which they both committed, were not occasioned by any necessity, or fatal ignorance, but were wholly voluntary; since our Passions are, or ought to be, within our power. The fabrick

rick of the Play is regular enough, as to the inferior parts of it; and the Unities of Time, Place and Action, more exactly observ'd, than perhaps the English Theatre requires. Particularly, the Action is so much one, that it is the only of the kind without Episode, or Underplot; every Scene in the Tragedy conducing to the main design, and every Act concluding with a turn of it. The greatest error in the contrivance seems to be in the person of Octavia: for, though I might use the privilege of a Poet, to introduce her into Alexandria; yet I had not enough consider'd, that the compassion she mov'd to herself and children, was destructive to that which I reserv'd for Anthony and Cleopatra; whose mutual love being founded upon vice must lessen the favour of the Audience to them, when Virtue and Innocence were oppress'd by it. And though I justify'd Anthony in some measure, by making Octavia's departure to proceed wholly from her self, yet the force of the first Machine still remain'd; and the dividing of pity, like the cutting of a River into many channels, abated the strength of the natural stream. But this is an objection which none of my Criticks have urg'd against me; and therefore I might have let it pass, if I could have been partial to my self. The faults my Enemies have found, are rather cavils, concerning little, and not essential decencies, which a Master of the Ceremonies may decide betwixt us. The French Poets, I confess, are strict observers of these punctilio's. They would not, for example, have suffer'd Cleopatra and Octavia to have met; or if they had met, there must only have pass'd betwixt them some cold civilities, but no eagerness of repartée, for fear of offending against the greatness of their characters, and the modesty of their sex. The objection I foresaw, and at the same time condemn'd. For I judg'd it both natural and probable, that Octavia proud of her new gain'd conquest, would search out Cleopatra to triumph over her, and that Cleopatra thus attack'd, was not of a spirit to shun the encounter, and 'tis not unlikely, that two exasperated Rivals should use such Satyr as I have put into their mouths, for

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ter all, though the one were a Roman, and the other a Queen, they were both Women. 'Tis true, some actions, though natural, are not fit to be represented; and broad obscenities in words, ought in good manners to be avoided. Expressions therefore are a modest clothing of our thoughts, as breeches and petticoats are of our bodies. If I have kept my self within the bounds of modesty, all beyond it is but nicety and affectation, which is no more but modesty deprav'd into a vice. They betray themselves, who are too quick of apprehension in such cases, and leave all reasonable men to innagine worse of them, than of the Poet.

Hone? Montaigne goes yet farther: ‡ Nous ne sommes que ceremonie; la ceremonie nous emporte, et laissons la substance des choses. Nous nous tenons aux branches, et abandonnons le tronc & le corps. Nous avons appris aux Dames de rougir, oyans seulement nommer ce qu'elles ne craignent aucunement à faire. Nous nosons appeller à droit nos membres, & ne craignons pas de les employer à toute sorte de dèbauche. La Ceremonie nous defend d'exprimer par paroles les choses licites & naturelles, & nous l'en croyons; la Raison nous defend de n'en faire point d'illicites & mauvaises, & personne nel'en croit. *My comfort is that by this opinion, my Enemies are but sucking Criticks who wou'd fain be nibbling ere their teeth are come.*

Yet, in this nicety of manners does the excellency of French Poetry consist. Their Heroes are the most civil people breathing; but their good breeding seldom extends to a word of good sense. All their wit is in their ceremony: they want the genius which animates our Stage; and therefore it is but necessary when they cannot please, that they should take care not to offend. But as the civilest man in the company is commonly the dullest,

lest, so these Authors, while they are afraid to make you laugh or cry, out of pure good manners, make you sleep. They are so careful not to exasperate a Critick, that they never leave him any work; so busie with the broom, and make so clean a riddance, that there is little left either for censure or for praise: For no part of a Poem is worth our discommending, where the whole is insipid; as when we have once tasted of pall'd wine, we stay not to examine it glass by glass. But while they affect to shine in trifles, they are often careless in essentials. Thus their Hippolytus is so scrupulous in point of decency, that he will rather expose himself to death, than accuse his Step-mother to his Father; and my Criticks I am sure will commend him for it: but we of grosser apprehensions, are apt to think, that this excess of generosity is not practicable, but with Fools and Madmen. This was good manners with a vengeance; and the Audience is like to be much concern'd at the misfortunes of this admirable Hero. But take Hippolytus out of his poetick fit, and I suppose he would think it a wiser part to set the saddle on the right Horse, and chuse rather to live with the reputation of a plain-spoken honest Man, than to dye with the infamy of an incestuous Villain. In the mean time we may take notice, that where the Poet ought to have preserv'd the Character as it was deliver'd to us by Antiquity, when he should have given us the Picture of a rough young Man, of the Amazonian strain, a jolly Huntsman, and both by his profession and his early rising, a mortal Enemy to Love, he has chosen to give him the turn of Gallantry, sent him to travel from Athens to Paris, taught him to make Love, and transformed the Hippolytus of Euripides into Monsieur Hippolyte. I should not have troubled my self thus far with French Poets, but that I find our Chedreux Criticks wholly form their judgments by them. But for my part, I desire to be try'd by the laws of my own Country; for it seems unjust to me, that the French should prescribe here, 'till they have conquer'd. Our little Sonnettiers who follow them, have too narrow Souls

to judge of Poetry. Poets themselves are the most proper, though I conclude not the only Criticks. But 'till some Genius, as universal as Aristotle, shall arise, who can penetrate into all Arts and Sciences, without the practice of them, I shall think it reasonable, that the judgment of an Artificer in his own Art, should be preferable to the opinion of another Man; at least where he is not brib'd by interest, or prejudic'd by malice. And this, I suppose, is manifest by plain induction: For, first, the crowd cannot be presum'd to have more than a gross instinct of what pleases or displeases them. Every man will grant me this: but then, by a particular kindness to himself, he draws his own stake first, and will be distinguish'd from the multitude, of which other men may think him one. But, if I come closer to those who are allow'd for witty Men, either by the advantage of their quality, or by common Fame, and affirm that neither are they qualify'd to decide sovereignly, concerning Poetry, I shall yet have a strong party of my opinion: for most of them severally will exclude the rest, either from the number of witty Men, or at least of able Judges. But here again they are all indulgent to themselves: And every one who believes himself a Wit, that is every Man, will pretend at the same time to a right of judging. But to press it yet farther, there are many witty Men, but few Poets; neither have all Poets a taste of Tragedy. And this is the rock on which they are daily splitting. Poetry, which is a picture of Nature, must generally please: But 'tis not to be understood that all parts of it must please every Man; therefore Tragedy is not to be judg'd by a witty Man, whose taste is only confin'd to Comedy. Nor is every Man who loves Tragedy a sufficient Judge of it: he must understand the excellencies of it too, or he will only prove a blind Admirer not a Critick. From hence it comes that so many Satyrs on Poets, and censures of their writings, fly abroad. Men of pleasant conversation, at least esteem'd so, and indu'd with a trifling kind of fancy, perhaps help'd out with some smattering of Latin, are

*ambitious to distinguish themselves from the herd of Gentlemen, by their Poetry;*

*Rarus enim fermè sensus communis in illâ Fortuna.*

*And is not this a wretched affectation, not to be contented with what Fortune has done for them, and sit down quietly with their Estates, but they must call their Wits in question, and needlessly expose their nakedness to publick view? Not considering that they are not to expect the same approbation from sober Men, which they have found from their Flatterers after the third bottle. If a little glittering in discourse has pass'd them on us for witty Men, where was the necessity of undeceiving the World? Would a Man who has an ill Title to an Estate, but yet is in possession of it, would he bring it of his own accord, to be try'd at Westminster? We who write, if we want the talent, yet have the excuse that we do it for a poor subsistence; but what can be urg'd in their defence, who not having the vocation of poverty, scribble out of meer wantonness, and take pains to make themselves ridiculous? Horace was certainly in the right, where he said, That no Man is satisfy'd with his own condition. A Poet is not pleas'd because he is not rich; and the Rich are discontented, because the Poets will not admit them of their number. Thus the case is hard with Writers. If they succeed not, they must starve; and if they do, some malicious Satyr is prepar'd to level them, for daring to please without their leave. But while they are so eager to destroy the fame of others, their ambition is manifest in their concernment. Some Poem of their own is to be produc'd, and the Slaves are to be laid flat with their faces on the ground, that the Monarch may appear in the greater Majesty.*

Diony.

Dionysius and Nero had the same longings; but with all their Power they could never bring their business well about. 'Tis true, they proclaim'd themselves Poets by sound of Trumpet; and Poets they were upon pain of death to any Man who durst call them otherwise. The Audience had a fine time on't, you may imagine; they sate in a bodily fear, look'd as demurely as they could: For 'twas a hanging matter to laugh unseasonably; and the Tyrants were suspicious, as they had reason, that their Subjects had 'em in the wind; so every Man in his own defence, set as good a face upon the business as he could. 'Twas known before-hand that the Monarchs were to be crown'd Laureat's; but when the Shew was over, and an honest Man was suffer'd to depart quietly, he took out his laughter which he had stifled, with a firm resolution never more to see an Emperor's Play, though he had been ten years a making it. In the mean time, the true Poets were they who made the best markets, for they had wit enough to yield the Prize with a good grace, and not contend with him who had thirty Legions. They were sure to be rewarded if they confess'd themselves bad Writers, and that was somewhat better than to be Martyrs for their reputation. Lucan's example was enough to teach them manners; and after he was put to death, for overcoming Nero, the Emperor carried it without dispute, for the best Poet in his Dominions. No Man was ambitious of that grinning honour; for if he heard the malicious Trumpeter proclaiming his name before his betters, he knew there was but one way with him. Mecænas took another course, and we know he was more than a great Man, for he was witty too: But finding himself far gone in Poetry, which Seneca assures us was not his talent, he thought it his best way to be well with Virgil and with Horace; that at least he might be a Poet at the second hand. And we see how happily it has succeeded with him; for his own bad Poetry is forgotten, and their Panegyricks of him still remain. But they who should be our Patrons, are for no such expensive ways to fame:

*They have much of the Poetry of Meccenas, but little of his Liberality. They are for persecuting Horace and Virgil, in the persons of their successors, (for such is every Man, who has any part of their soul on fire, though in a less degree.) Some of their little Zanies yet go farther; for they are Persecutors even of Horace himself, as far as they are able, by their ignorant and vile imitations of him; by making an unjust use of his authority, and turning his Artillery against his friends. But how would he disdain to be copied by such hands! I dare answer for him, he would be more uneasy in their company, than he was with Crispinus their forefather in the Holy way; and would no more have allow'd them a place amongst the Criticks, than he would Demetrius the Mimick, and Tigellius the Buffoon;*

———— Demetri, teque Tigelli,  
Discipulorum inter jubeo plorare cathedras.

*With what scorn would he look down on such miserable Translators, who make doggerel of his Latin, mistake his meaning, misapply his censures, and often contradict their own? He is fix'd as a land-mark to set out the bounds of Poetry.*

———— Saxum antiquum, ingens,  
Limes agro positus litem ut discerneret arvis:

*But other arms than theirs, and other sinews are requir'd, to raise the weight of such an Author; and when they would toss him against their Enemies;*

*Genua labant, gelidus concrevit frigore sanguis,  
Tum lapis ipse viri vacuum per inane volutus,  
Nec spatium evasit torum, nec pertulit ictum.*

*For my part, I would wish no other revenge, either for my self or the rest of the Poets, from this rhyming Judge*

Judge

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Judge of the twelve-penny Gallery, this legitimate Son of Sternhold; than that he would subscribe his name to his censure, or (not to tax him beyond his learning) set his mark: for should he own himself publickly, and come from behind the Lion's skin, they whom he condemns would be thankful to him, they whom he praises would chuse to be condemned; and the Magistrates whom he has elected, would modestly withdraw from their employment, to avoid the scandal of his nomination. The sharpness of his Satyr, next to himself, falls most heavily on his friends; and they ought never to forgive him for commending them perpetually the wrong way, and sometimes by contraries. If he have a friend whose hastiness in writing is his greatest fault, Horace would have taught him to have minc'd the matter, and to have call'd it readiness of thought and a flowing fancy; for Friendship will allow a Man to christen an imperfection by the name of some neighbour Virtue:

Vellem in amicitia sic erraremus, & isti  
Errori nomen Virtus posuisset honestum.

But he would never have allow'd him to have call'd a slow Man hasty, or a hasty writer a slow drudge; as Juvenal explains it.

————Canibus pigris scabique vetustâ  
Levibus, & siccz lambentibus ora lucernæ  
Nomen erit, Pardus, Tygris, Leo; si quid adhuc est  
Quod fremit in terris violentius.

Yet Lucretius laughs at a foolish Lover, even for excusing the imperfections of his Mistress.

Nigra μελίχορ est, immunda & foetida ἀνοσμος;  
Balba loqui non quit, τραυλίζεις; muta pudens est, &c.

But

But to drive it, ad *Æthiopen Cygnum*, is not to be indur'd. I leave him to interpret this by the benefit of his French version on the other side; and without farther considering him, than I have the rest of my illiterate Censors, whom I have disdain'd to answer, because they are not qualified for Judges. It remains that I acquaint the Reader, that I have endeavour'd in this Play to follow the practice of the Ancients, who, as Mr. Rymer has judiciously observ'd, are, and ought to be our Masters. Horace likewise gives it for a rule in his *Art of Poetry*,

———Vos exemplaria Græca  
Nocturnâ versate manu, versate diurnâ.

Yet, though their Models are regular, they are too little for English Tragedy; which requires to be built in a larger compass. I could give an instance in the *Oedipus Tyrannus*, which was the Master-piece of Sophocles; but I reserve it for a more fit occasion, which I hope to have hereafter. In my Style I have profess'd to imitate the Divine Shakespear; which that I might perform more freely, I have disincumber'd my self from Rhyme. Not that I condemn my former way, but that this is more proper to my present purpose. I hope I need not to explain my self, that I have not copy'd my Author servilely. Words and phrases must of necessity receive a change in succeeding Ages: But 'tis almost a miracle that much of his language remains so pure; and that he who began Dramatick Poetry amongst us; untaught by any, and, as Ben Johnson tells us, without learning, should by the force of his own genius perform so much, that in a manner he has left no praise for any who come after him. The occasion is fair, and the subject would be pleasant, to handle the difference of Styles betwixt him and Fletcher, and wherein, and how far they are both to be imitated. But since I must not be over confident of my own per-  
for:

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formance after him, it will be prudence in me to be silent. Yet, I hope I may affirm, and without vanity, that by imitating him, I have excell'd my self throughout the Play; and particularly, that I prefer the Scene betwixt Anthony and Ventidius in the first Act, to any thing which I have written in this kind.

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PRO.

# PROLOGUE.

To *Anthony* and *Cleopatra*.

**W**HAT flocks of Criticks hover here to day:  
 As Vulturs wait on Armies for their Prey,  
 All gaping for the carcass of a Play!  
 With croaking notes they bode some dire event;  
 And follow dying Poets by the scent.  
 Ours gives himself for gone; you've watch'd your time;  
 He fights this day unarm'd; without his Rhyme;  
 And brings a Tale which often has been told;  
 As sad as Dido's; and almost as old.  
 His Hero, whom you Wit's his Bully call,  
 Beats of his mettle, and scarce rants at all.  
 He's somewhat lewd, but a well meaning mind;  
 Weeps much, fights little; but is wond'rous kind.  
 In short; a pattern and companion fit  
 For all the keeping Tomy's of the Pit.

I cou'd name more; A Wife and Mistress too;  
 Both, to be plain, too good for most of you:  
 The Wife well-natur'd, and the Mistress true.

Now Poets, if your fame has been his care;  
 Allow him all the candour you can spare.  
 A brave Man scorns to quarrel once a day,  
 Like Hectors, in at ev'ry petty fray.  
 Let those find fault whose wis's so very small,  
 They've need to show that they can think at all.  
 Errors like straws upon the surface flow;  
 He who wou'd search for Pearls must dive below.  
 Fops may have leave to level all they can;  
 As Pigmies wou'd be glad to lop a Man.  
 Half Wits are fleas, so little and so light,  
 We scarce cou'd know they live, but that they bite.  
 But, as the Rich, when tir'd with daily feasts,  
 For change, become their next poor Tenants guests;

Drink

# PROLOGUE.

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*Drink hearty draughts of Ale, from plain brown bowls,  
And snatch the homely Rasher from the coals:  
So you, retiring from much better cheer,  
For once, may venture to do penance here.  
And since that plenteous Autumn now is past.  
Whose grapes, and peaches have indulg'd your taste,  
Take in good part from our poor Poet's board,  
Such rivell'd fruits as Winter can afford,*

---



Dra-

# Dramatis Personæ.

*Marc Anthony.*

*Ventidius*, his General.

*Dolabella*, his Friend.

*Alexas*, the Queen's Eunuch.

*Serapion*, Priest of *Isis*.

*Myris*, Another Priest.

Servants to *Anthony*.

*Cleopatra*, Queen of *Ægypt*.

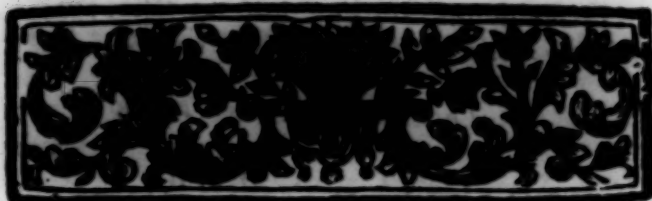
*Octavia*, *Anthony's* Wife.

*Charmion*,  
*Iras*, } *Cleopatra's* Maids.

*Anthony's* two little Daughters.

SCENE *ALEXANDRIA*.

ALL



ALL for LOVE:  
OR,  
The World well Lost.

---

A C T. I.

SCENE, *the Temple of Isis.*

*Enter Serapion and Myris, Priests of Isis.*

*Serapion.*

P Or tents and Prodigies are grown so frequent,  
That they have lost their name: Our fruitful Nile  
Flow'd ere the wonted season, with a torrent  
So unexpected, and so wondrous fierce,  
That the wild deluge overtook the haste,  
Ev'n of the Hinds that watch'd it. Men and beasts  
Were born above the tops of trees, that grew  
On th'utmost margin of the water-mark;  
Then with so swift an ebb the flood drove backward,  
It slipt from underneath the scaly herd.  
Here monstrous *Phoca* panted on the shore:  
Forlaken *Dolphins* there; with their broad tails,  
Lay lashing the departing waves: Hard by 'em,

Sea-

Sea Horses floundring in the slimy mud,  
Toss'd up their heads and dash'd the ouze about 'em.

*Enter Alexas behind them.*

*Myr.* Avert these Omens, Heav'n!

*Serap.* Last night, between the hours of twelve and  
In a lone Isle o'th'Temple, while I walk'd, (One,  
A whirl-wind rose, that with a violent blast,  
Shook all the *Dome*: The doors around me clapt,  
The Iron wicket that defends the vault,  
Where the long Race of *Ptolemies* is laid,  
Burst open, and disclos'd the mighty dead.  
From out each Monument, in order plac'd,  
An armed Ghost starts up: The Boy-King last  
Rear'd his inglorious head. A peal of groans  
Then follow'd, and a lamentable voice  
Cry'd, *Ægypt* is no more. My blood ran back,  
My shaking knees against each other knock'd;  
On the cold pavement, down I fell intranc'd,  
And so unfinish'd left the horrid scene. (the story,  
*Alexas shew- } And dream'd you this? or, did invent*  
*ing himself. }* To frighten our *Ægyptian* Boys withal,  
And train 'em up betimes in fear of Priesthood?

*Serap.* My Lord, I saw you not,  
Nor meant my words should reach your ears; but what  
I utter'd was most true.

*Alex.* A foolish dream,  
Bred from the fumes of indigested feasts,  
And holy luxury.

*Serap.* I know my duty:  
This goes no farther.

*Alex.* 'Tis not fit it should.  
Nor would the times now bear it, were it true.  
All southern, from yon hills, the *Roman* Camp  
Hangs o'er us black and threatning, like a storm  
Just breaking on our heads.

*Serap.* Our faint *Ægyptians* pray for *Anthony*;  
But in their servile hearts they own *Octavius*.

*Myr.*

*Myr.* Why then does *Anthony* dream out his hours,  
And tempts not Fortune for a noble day,  
Which might redeem what *Actium* hath lost?

*Alex.* He thinks 'tis past recovery.

*Serap.* Yet the Foe  
Seems not to press the Siege.

*Alex.* O, there's the wonder.

*Mecenas* and *Agrippa*, who can most  
With *Cesar*, are his Foes. His Wife *Octavia*,  
Driv'n from his house, solicits her revenge:  
And *Dolabella*, who was once his Friend,  
Upon some private grudge, now seeks his ruin;  
Yet still war seems on either side to sleep.

*Serap.* 'Tis strange that *Anthony*, for some days past,  
Has not beheld the face of *Cleopatra*;  
But here, in *Isis*' Temple, lives retir'd,  
And makes his heart a prey to black despair.

*Alex.* 'Tis true: and we much fear he hopes by ab-  
To cure his mind of love. (sence

*Serap.* If he be vanquish'd,  
Or make his peace, *Ægypt* is doom'd to be  
A Roman Province; and our plenteous Harvest  
Must then redeem the scarceness of their soil.  
While *Anthony* stood firm, our *Alexandria*  
Rival'd proud *Rome*, Dominion's other seat,  
And Fortune striding, like a vast *Colossus*,  
Cou'd fix an equal foot of Empire here.

*Alex.* Had I my wish, these Tyrants of all Nature,  
Who lord it o'er Mankind, should perish, perish  
Each by the other's Sword; but since our will  
Is lamely follow'd by our pow'r, we must  
Depend on one; with him to rise or fall.

*Serap.* How stands the Queen affected?

*Alex.* O, she dotes,  
She dotes. *Serapion*, on this vanquish'd Man,  
And winds her self about his mighty ruins.  
Whom would she yet forsake, yet yield him up;  
This hunted prey, to his pursuers hands,  
She might preserve us all: but 'tis in vain——  
This changes my designs, this blasts my counsels,

And

And makes me use all means to keep him here,  
Whom I could wish divided from her arms  
Far as the Earth's deep centre. Well you know  
The state of things; no more of your ill Omens,  
And black Prognosticks; labour to confirm  
The People's hearts.

*Enter Ventidius, talking aside with a Gentleman of Anthony's.*

*Serap.* These Romans will o'er hear us.  
But who's that Stranger? By his warlike port,  
His fierce demeanor, and erected look,  
He's of no vulgar note.

*Alex.* O'tis *Ventidius*,  
Our Emp'rors great Lieutenant in the East,  
Who first shew'd *Rome*, that *Parthia* could be conquer'd;  
When *Anthony* return'd from *Syria* last,  
He left this Man to guard the *Roman* Frontiers.

*Serap.* You seem to know him well.

*Alex.* Too well. I saw him in *Cilicia* first,  
When *Cleopatra* there met *Anthony*:  
A mortal Foe he was to us, and *Ægypt*.  
But, let me witness to the worth I hate;  
A braver *Roman* never drew a sword.  
Firm to his Prince; but as a Friend, not Slave.  
He ne'er was of his pleasures; but presides  
O'er all his cooler hours and morning Counsels.  
In short, the plainness, fierceness, rugged virtue  
Of an old true stamp *Roman* lives in him.  
His coming bodes I know not what of ill  
To our affairs, withdraw to mark him better,  
And I'll acquaint you, why I sought you here,  
And what's our present work.

*They withdraw to a corner of the Stage, and Ventidius, with the other, comes forwards to the front.*

*Vent.* Not see him, say you?  
I say, I must and will.

*Gent.* He has commanded,  
On pain of death, none should approach his presence.

*Vent.*

*Vent.* I bring him news will raise his drooping Spi-  
Give him new life. (rits,

*Gent.* He sees not *Cleopatra*.

*Vent.* Would he had never seen her.

*Gent.* He eats not, drinks not, sleeps not, has no use  
Of any thing, but thought; or, if he talks,  
'Tis to himself, and then 'tis perfect raving :  
Then he defies the World, and bids it pass.  
Sometimes he gnaws his lip, and curses loud  
The Boy *Octavius* : Then he draws his mouth  
Into a scornful smile, and cries, take all,  
The world's not worth my care.

*Vent.* Just, just his nature.

Virtue's his path ; but sometimes 'tis too narrow  
For his vast Soul ; and then he starts out wide,  
And bounds into a vice that bears him far  
From his first course, and plunges him in ills.  
But, when his danger makes him find his fault,  
Quick to observe, and full of sharp remorse,  
He censures eagerly his own misdeeds,  
Judging himself with malice to himself,  
And not forgiving what as Man he did,  
Because his other parts are more than Man.  
He must not thus be lost.

(*Alexas and the Priest come forward.*

*Alex.* You have your full instructions, now advance;  
Proclaim your Orders loudly.

*Serap.* *Romans, Egyptians,* hear the Queen's command  
Thus *Cleopatra* bids, Let labour cease,  
To Pomp and Triumphs give this happy day,  
That gave the World a Lord : 'Tis *Anthony's*.  
Live *Anthony*; and *Cleopatra* live.  
Be this the general voice sent up to Heav'n,  
And every publick place repeat this eccho.

*Vent. aside.)* Fine pageantry !

*Serap.* Set out before your doors  
The Images of all your sleeping Fathers,  
With laurels crown'd ; with laurels wreath your posts  
And strow with flow'rs the pavement ; Let the Priests  
Do

Do present sacrifice; pour out the wine,  
And call the Gods to join with you in gladness.

*Vent.* Curse on the tongue that bids this general joy,  
Can they be friends of *Anthony*, who revel  
When *Anthony's* in danger? Hide, for shame,  
You *Romans*, your Great Grandfires Images,  
For fear their Souls should animate their Marbles,  
To blush at their degenerate Progeny.

*Alex.* A love, which knows no bounds to *Anthony*,  
Would mark the day with honours; when all Heav'n  
Labour'd for him, when each propitious Star  
Stood wakeful in his orb, to watch that hour,  
And shed his better influence. Her own birth-day  
Our Queen neglected, like a vulgar Fate,  
That pass'd obscurely by.

*Vent.* Would it had slept,  
Divided far from his; 'till some remote  
And future age had call'd it out, to ruin  
Some other Prince not him.

*Alex.* Your Emperor,  
Though grown unkind, would be more gentle, than  
Tupbraid my Queen for loving him too well.

*Vent.* Does the mute Sacrifice upbraid the Priest?  
He knows him not his Executioner.

O, she has deck'd his ruin with her love,  
Led him in golden bands to gaudy slaughter,  
And made perdition pleasing: She has left him  
The blank of what he was.

I tell thee, Eunuch, she has quite unman'd him,  
Can any *Roman* see, and know him now,  
Thus alter'd from the Lord of half Mankind,  
Unbent, unfinew'd, made a Woman's toy,  
Shrunk from the vast extent of all his honours,  
And cramp'd within a corner of the World?

O, *Anthony*!

Thou bravest Soldier, and thou best of Friends!  
Bounteous as Nature; next to Nature's God! (give 'em  
Couldst thou but make new Worlds, so would'st thou  
As Bounty were thy being. Rough in battle,  
As the first *Romans*, when they went to War;

Yet,

Yet, after Victory, more pitiful  
Than all their praying Virgins left at home!

*Alex.* Would you could add to those more shining  
His truth to her who loves him. (Virtues,

*Vent.* Would I could nor,

But, wherefore waste I precious hours with thee?

Thou art her darling Mischief, her chief Engine,

*Anthony's* other Fate. Go, tell thy Queen,

*Ventidius* is arriv'd, to end her charms.

Let your *Egyptian* Timbrels play alone;

Nor mix effeminate sounds with *Roman* Trumpets.

You dare not fight for *Anthony*, go pray,

And keep your Cowards-Holy-day in Temples.

(*Exeunt Alex. Scrop.*)

*Re-enter the Gentleman of M. Anthony.*

2 *Gent.* The Emperor approaches, and commands,  
On pain of death, that none presume to stay.

1 *Gent.* I dare not disobey him.

(*Going out with the other.*)

*Vent.* Well, I dare.

But, I'll observe him first unseen, and find

Which way his humour drives: the rest I'll venture.

(*Withdraws.*)

*Enter Anthony, walking with a disturb'd motion, before  
he speaks.*

*Anth.* They tell me 'tis my Birth-day, and I'll keep it  
With double pomp of sadness,

'Tis what the day deserves, which gave me breath.

Why was I rais'd the Meteor of the World,

Hung in the skies, and blazing as I travell'd,

'Till all my fires were spent; and then cast downward

To be trod out by *Cesar*!

*Vent.* On my Soul,

(*Aside.*)

'Tis mournful, wondrous mournful!

*Anth.* Count thy gains.

Now, *Anthony*, would'st thou be born for this?

Glutton

Glutton of Fortune, thy devouring youth  
Has starv'd thy wanting age.

*Vent.* How sorrow shakes him!

(*Aside.*

So, now the tempest tears him up by th' roots,  
And on the ground extends the noble ruin.

(*Anth. having thrown himself down*)

Lie there, thou shadow of an Emperor;  
The place thou preffest on thy Mother Earth  
Is all thy Empire now: now it contains thee.  
Some few days hence, and then 'twill be too large,  
When thou'rt contracted in the narrow Urn,  
Shrunk to a few cold ashes; then *Ostavia*,  
(For *Cleopatra* will not live to see it)  
*Ostavia* then will have thee all her own,  
And bear thee in her widow'd hand to *Cesar*.  
*Cesar* will weep, the Crocodile will weep,  
To see his Rival of the Universe  
Lye still and peaceful there. I'll think no more on't.

*Anth.* Give me some Musick; look that it be sad:  
I'll sooth my melancholy till I swell,  
And burst my self with sighing ——— (Soft Musick.  
'Tis somewhat to my humour. Stay, I fancy  
I'm now turn'd wild, a Commoner of Nature,  
Of all forsaken and forsaking all;  
Live in a shady Forest's sylvan scene,  
Stretch'd at my length beneath some blasted oak,  
I lean my head upon the mossy bark,  
And look just of a piece, as I grew from it:  
My uncomb'd locks, matted like *Mistletoe*,  
Hang o'er my hoary face; a murmur'ing brook  
Runs at my foot.

*Vent.* Methinks I also fancy  
My self there too.

*Anth.* The herd come jumping by me,  
And fearless, quench their thirst, while I look on,  
And take me for their fellow-Citizen.  
More of this image, more; it lulls my thoughts.

(Soft Musick again.)

*Vent.* I must disturb him; I can hold no longer.

(Stands before him.)

*Anth.*

*Anth. starting up.]* Art thou *Ventidius*?

*Vent.* Are you *Anthony*?

I'm liker what I was, than you to him  
I left you last.

*Anth.* I'm angry.

*Vent.* So am I.

*Anth.* I would be private: leave me.

*Vent.* Sir, I love you,  
And therefore will not leave you.

*Anth.* Will not leave me?

Where have you learnt that answer? Who am I?

*Vent.* My Emperor; the Man I love next Heav'n;  
If I said more I think 'twere scarce a sin;  
I are all that's good and God-like.

*Anth.* All that's wretched.

You will not leave me then?

*Vent.* 'Twas too presuming  
To say I would not; but I dare not leave you.  
And 'tis unkind in you to chide me hence  
So soon, when I so far have come to see you.

*Anth.* Now thou hast seen me, art thou satisfy'd?  
For if a Friend, thou hast beheld enough;  
And if a Foe, too much.

*Vent. weeping.* Look Emperor! this is no common  
I have not wept this forty years; but now (dew:  
My Mother comes afresh into my eyes;  
I cannot help her softness. (he weeps!

*Anth.* By Heav'n, he weeps, poor good old Man,  
The big round drops course one another down  
The furrows of his cheeks. Stop em, *Ventidius*,  
Or I shall blush to death: they set my shame,  
That caus'd 'em, full before me.

*Vent.* I'll do my best.

*Anth.* Sure there's contagion in the tears of friends  
I have caught it too. Believe me, 'tis not  
For my own griefs, but thine — Nay, Father,

*Vent.* Emperor.

*Anth.* Emperor! Why, that's the style of victory.  
The conquering Soldier, red with unselt wounds,  
Salutes his General so; but never more  
Shall that sound reach my ears.

*Vent.* I warrant you.

*Anth.* *Actium, Actium!* Oh ———

*Vent.* It sits too near you.

*Anth.* Here, here it lyes; a lump of lead by day,  
And in my short distracted nightly slumbers,  
The Hag that rides my dreams ———

*Vent.* Out with it; give it vent.

*Anth.* Urge not my shame.

I lost a Battle.

*Vent.* So has *Julius* done. (thou think'st;

*Anth.* Thou favour'st me, and speak'st not half  
For *Julius* fought it out, and lost it fairly :

But *Anthony* ———

*Vent.* Nay, stop not.

*Anth.* *Anthony* ———

(Well, thou wilt have it,) like a Coward fled,  
Fled while his Soldiers fought; fled first, *Ventidius*.  
Thou long'st to curse me, and I give thee leave.  
I know thou com'st prepar'd to rail.

*Vent.* I did.

*Anth.* I'll help thee—I have been a Man *Ventidius*

*Vent.* Yes, and a brave one; but ———

*Anth.* I know thy meaning.

But I have lost my reason, have disgrac'd  
The name of Soldier with inglorious ease.  
In the full vintage of my flowing honours  
Sate still, and saw it press'd by other hands.  
Fortune came smiling to my youth, and woo'd it,  
And purple greatness met my ripen'd years.  
When first I came to Empire, I was born  
On tides of People, crowding to my Triumphs;  
The wish of Nations; and the willing world  
Receiv'd me as its pledge of future peace.  
I was so great, so happy, so belov'd,  
Fate could not ruin me, 'till I took pains  
And work'd against my Fortune; chid her for me  
And turn'd her loose: yet still she came again.  
My careless days, and my luxurious nights,  
At length have weary'd her, and now she's gone.  
Gone, gone, divorc'd for ever. Help me, Soldier,

To curse this Madman, this industrious Fool,  
Who labour'd to be wretched : prithee curse me.

*Vent.* No.

*Anth.* Why ?

*Vent.* You are too sensible already  
Of what y've done, too conscious of your failings,  
And, like a Scorpion, whipt by others first  
To fury, sting your self in mad revenge.  
I would bring balm and pour it in your wounds,  
Cure your distemper'd mind, and heal your fortunes.

*Anth.* I know thou would'st.

*Vent.* I will.

*Anth.* Ha, ha, ha, ha !

*Vent.* You laugh.

*Anth.* I do, to see officious love  
Give cordials to the dead.

*Vent.* You would be lost then ?

*Anth.* I am.

*Vent.* I say you are not. Try your fortune. (perate,

*Anth.* I have to th' utmost. Dost thou think me del-  
Without just cause ? No, when I found all lost  
Beyond repair, I hid me from the World,  
And learnt to scorn it here : which now I do  
So heartily, I think it is not worth  
The cost of keeping.

*Vent.* *Caesar* thinks not so.

He'll thank you for the gift he could not take.  
You would be kill'd, like *Tully*, would you ? Do,  
Hold out your throat to *Caesar*, and die tamely.

*Anth.* No, I can kill my self ; and so resolve.

*Vent.* I can die with you too, when time shall serve ;  
But Fortune calls upon us now to live,  
To fight, to conquer.

*Anth.* Sure thou dream'st *Ventidius*.

*Vent.* No, 'tis you dream, you sleep away your hours  
In desperate sloth, miscall'd *Philosophy*.  
Up, up, for Honour's sake, twelve Legions wait you,  
And long to call you Chief : By painful journies,  
I led 'em patient both of heat and hunger,  
Down from the *Parthian* marches, to the *Nile*.

'Twill do you good to see their Sun-burnt-faces, ('em,  
Their scar'd cheeks and chopt hands; there is virtue in  
They'll sell those mangled limbs at dearer rates  
Than yon trim Bands can buy.

*Anth.* Where left you them?

*Vent.* I said, in lower *Syria*.

*Anth.* Bring 'em hither;

There may be life in these.

*Vent.* They will not come. (mis'd aids

*Anth.* Why did'st thou mock my hopes with pro-  
To double my despair? They're mutinous.

*Vent.* Most firm and loyal.

*Anth.* Yet they will not march  
To succour me. Oh trisler!

*Vent.* They petition

You would make haste to head 'em.

*Anth.* I'm besieg'd. (ther?

*Vent.* There's but one way shut up: How came I hi-

*Anth.* I will not stir.

*Vent.* They would perhaps desire  
A better reason.

*Anth.* I have never us'd

My Soldiers to demand a reason of

My Actions. Why did they refuse to march?

*Vent.* They said, they would not fight for *Cleopatra*.

*Anth.* What was't they said?

*Vent.* They said they would not fight for *Cleopatra*.  
Why should they fight, indeed, to make her conquer,  
And make you more a Slave? to gain you Kingdoms,  
Which, for a kiss, at your next midnight Feast,  
You'll sell to her? Then she new names her Jewels,  
And calls this Diamond such or such a Tax,  
Each Pendant in her ear shall be a Province.

*Anth.* *Ventidius*, I allow your tongue free licence  
On all my other faults; but on your life,  
No word of *Cleopatra*: She deserves  
More Worlds than I can lose.

*Vent.* Behold, you Powers,  
To whom you have intrusted human kind;  
See *Europe*, *Africk*, *Asia*, put in balance,

And

And all weigh'd down by one light worthless Woman !  
I think the Gods are *Anthony's*, and give,  
Like Prodigals, this nether World away  
To none but wasteful hands.

*Anth.* You grow presumptuous.

*Vent.* I take the privilege of plain love to speak.

*Anth.* Plain love ! plain arrogance, plain insolence ;  
The Men are Cowards ; thou an envious Traitor ;  
Who, under seeming honesty, hast vented  
The burthen of thy rank o'erflowing Gall.  
O that thou wert my equal, great in Arms  
As the first *Cesar* was, that I might kill thee  
Without a stain to Honour !

*Vent.* You may kill me ;

You have done more already, call'd me Traitor.

*Anth.* Art thou not one ?

*Vent.* For showing you your self,  
Which none else durst have done ; but had I been  
That name, which I disdain to speak again,  
I needed not have sought your abject fortunes,  
Come to partake your Fate, to die with you.  
What hindred me t'have led my conqu'ring Eagles  
To fill *Octavius'* Bands ! I could have been  
A Traitor then, a glorious happy Traitor,  
And not have been so call'd.

*Anth.* Forgive me, Soldier ;  
I've been too passionate.

*Vent.* You thought me false ;  
Thought my old age betray'd you ; kill me, Sir ;  
Pray, kill me : yet you need not, your unkindness  
Has left your sword no work.

*Anth.* I did not think so ;  
I said it in my rage : prithee forgive me.  
Why didst thou tempt my anger, by discovery  
Of what I would not hear ?

*Vent.* No Prince but you  
Could merit that sincerity I us'd :  
Nor durst another Man have ventur'd it.  
But you, ere Love mis-led your wandering eyes,  
Were sure the chief and best of human race,

Fram'd in the very pride and boast of Nature,  
 So perfect, that the Gods who form'd you, wonder'd  
 At their own skill, and cry'd, a lucky hit  
 Has mended our design. Their envy hindred,  
 Else you had been immortal, and a pattern,  
 When Heav'n would work for ostentation's sake,  
 To copy out again ———

*Anth.* But *Cleopatra* ———

Go on; for I can bear it now.

*Vent.* No more.

(*may't* :

*Anth.* Thou dar'st not trust my passion; but thou  
 Thou only lov'st; the rest have flatter'd me. (*word,*

*Vent.* Heav'n's blessing on your heart for that kind  
 May I believe you love me? speak again.

*Anth.* Indeed I do, speak this, and this, and this,

(*Hugging him.*

Thy praises were unjust; but I'll deserve 'em  
 And yet mend all. Do with me what thou wilt;  
 Lead me to Victory, thou know'st the way.

*Vent.* And, will you leave this ———

*Anth.* Prithce do not curse her,

And I will leave her; though, Heav'n knows I love  
 Beyond life, conquest, empire, all but Honour.  
 But I will leave her.

*Vent.* That's my Royal Master.

And shall we fight?

*Anth.* I warrant thee, old Soldier;

Thou shalt behold me once again in iron,  
 And at the head of our old Troops that beat  
 The *Parthians*, cry aloud; Come follow me.

*Vent.* O now I hear my Emperor! In that word  
*Octavius* fell. Gods, let me see that day,  
 And if I have ten Years behind, take all;  
 I'll thank you for th' exchange.

*Anth.* Oh *Cleopatra*!

*Vent.* Again?

*Anth.* I've done: in that last sigh she went.  
*Cesar* shall know what 'tis to force a Lover  
 From all he holds most dear.

*Vent.* Methinks you breath

Another Soul: Your looks are more divine ;  
You speak a Hero, and you move a God.

*Anth.* O, thou hast fir'd me ; my Soul's up in Arms,  
And mans each part about me : Once again  
That noble eagerness of fight has seiz'd me,  
That eagerness with which I darted upward  
To *Cassius'* Camp. In vain the steepy hill  
Oppos'd my way ; in vain a war of spears  
Sung round my head, and planted all my shield :  
I won the Trenches, while my foremost Men  
Lagg'd on the plain below.

*Vent.* Ye Gods ! ye Gods !  
For such another hour.

*Anth.* Come on, my Soldier !  
Our hearts and arms are still the same : I long  
Once more to meet our Foes ; that thou and I,  
Like Time and Death, marching before our Troops,  
May taste Fate to 'em, mow 'em out a passage ;  
And entring where the foremost Squadrons yield,  
Begin the noblest Harvest of the field. *(Exeunt.)*

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A C T. II.

*Enter Cleopatra, Iras, and Alexas.*

*Cleopatra.*

What shall I do, or whither shall I turn ?  
*Ventidius* has o'ercome, and he will go

*Alex.* He goes to fight for you.

*Cleop.* Then he would see me ere he went to fight.  
Flatter me not : If once he goes, he's lost ;  
And all my hopes destroy'd.

*Alex.* Does this weak passion  
Become a mighty Queen ?

*Cleop.* I am no Queen.  
Is this to be a Queen, to be besieg'd  
By yon insulting *Romans*, and to wait  
Each hour the Victor's chain ? These ills are small ;  
For *Anthony* is lost, and I can mourn

For

For nothing else but him. Now come, *Ottavius*,  
I have no more to lose; prepare thy bonds;  
I'm fit to be a Captive: *Anthony*  
Has taught my mind the fortune of a Slave.

*Iras*. Call Reason to assist you.

*Cleop*. I have none,  
And none would have: My love's a noble madness,  
Which shows the cause deserv'd it. Moderate sorrow  
Fits vulgar love, and for a vulgar Man:  
But I have lov'd with such transcendent passion,  
I soar'd, at first, quite out of Reason's view,  
And now am lost above it ——— No, I'm proud  
'Tis thus; 'would *Anthony* could see me now;  
Think you he would not sigh? Tho' he must leave me,  
Sure he would sigh; for he is noble-natur'd,  
And bears a tender heart: I know him well.  
Ah, no, I know him not: I knew him once,  
But now 'tis past.

*Iras*. Let it be past with you;  
Forget him, Madam.

*Cleop*. Never, never, *Iras*:  
He was once mine; and once, though now 'tis gone,  
Leaves a faint image of possession still.

*Alex*. Think him inconstant, cruel, and ungrateful.

*Cleop*. I cannot: If I could; those thoughts were vain:  
Faithless, ungrateful, cruel, tho' he be,  
I still must love him.

*Enter Charmion.*

Now, what news my *Charmion*?  
Will he be kind? and will he not forsake me?  
Am I to live or die? Nay, do I live?  
Or am I dead? for when he gave his answer,  
Fate took the word, and then I liv'd or dy'd.

*Char*. I found him, Madam ———

*Cleop*. A long speech preparing!  
If thou bring'st comfort, haste and give it me;  
For never was more need.

*Iras*. I know he loves you.

*Cleop*.

*Cleop.* Had he been kind, her eyes had told me so,  
Before her tongue could speak it. Now she studies,  
To soften what he said: but give me death,  
Just as he sent it, *Charmion*, undisguis'd,  
And in the words he spoke.

*Char.* I found him then  
Incompass'd round, I think, with iron Statues,  
So mute, so motionless his Soldiers stood,  
While awfully he cast his eyes about,  
And ev'ry Leader's hopes or fears survey'd:  
Methought he look'd resolv'd, and yet not pleas'd.  
When he beheld me struggling in the croud,  
He blush'd, and bade, make way.

*Alex.* There's comfort yet.

*Char.* *Ventidius* fixt his eyes upon my passage,  
Severely, as he meant to frown me back,  
And sullenly gave place. I told my message  
Just as you gave it, broken and disorder'd:  
I number'd in it all yours sighs and tears;  
And while I mov'd your pitiful request,  
That you but only beg'd a last farewell,  
He fetch'd an inward groan, and ev'ry time  
I nam'd you, sigh'd as if his heart were breaking;  
But shun'd my eyes, and guiltily look'd down;  
He seem'd not now that awful *Anthony*  
Who shook an arm'd Assembly with his Nod,  
But making show as he would rub his eyes,  
Disguis'd and blotted out a falling tear.

*Cleop.* Did he then weep? and was I worth a tear?  
If what thou hast to say be not as pleasing,  
Tell me no more, but let me die contented.

*Char.* He bid me say, he knew himself so well,  
He could deny you nothing, if he saw you;  
And therefore.

*Cleop.* Thou wouldst say, he would not see me?

*Char.* And therefore beg'd you not to use a power,  
Which he could ill resist; yet he should ever  
Respect you as he ought.

*Cleop.* Is that a word  
For *Anthony* to use to *Cleopatra*?

O that feint word, Respect ! How I disdain it !  
 Disdain my self, for loving after it !  
 He should have kept that word for cold *Octavia*,  
 Respect is for a Wife, Am I that thing,  
 That dull insipid lump, without desires,  
 And without pow'r to give 'em ?

*Alex.* You misjudge ;  
 You see through love, and that deludes your sight :  
 As, what is straight, seems crooked through the water ;  
 But I, who bear my reason undisturb'd,  
 Can see this *Anthony*, this dreaded Man,  
 A fearful Slave who fain would run away,  
 And shun his Master's eyes : If you pursue him,  
 My life on't, he still drags a chain along,  
 That needs must clog his flight.

*Cleop.* Could I believe thee !

*Alex.* By ev'ry circumstance I know he loves.  
 True, he's hard prest, by interest and by honour ;  
 Yet he but doubts, and parlies, and casts out  
 Many a long look for succour.

*Cleop.* He sends word,  
 He fears to see my face.

*Alex.* And would you more !  
 He shows his weakness who declines the combat ;  
 And you must urge your fortune. Could he speak  
 More plainly ? To my ears, the message sounds,  
 Come to my rescue, *Cleopatra*, come ;  
 Come, free me from *Ventidius* ; from my Tyrant ;  
 See me, and give me a pretence to leave him.  
 I hear his Trumpets : this way he must pass.  
 Please you, retire a while ; I'll work him first,  
 That he may bend more easie.

*Cleop.* You shall rule me ;  
 But all, I fear, in vain. *(Exit with Char. and Ira)*

*Alex.* I fear so too ;  
 Though I conceal'd my thoughts, to make her bold :  
 But, 'tis our outmost means, and Fate befriend it.

*(Withdraws)*

*The WORLD well lost.* 35

*Enter Lictors with Fasces, ; one bearing the Eagle: Then enter Anthony with Ventidius, follow'd by other Commanders.*

*Anth. Octavius* is the Minion of blind Chance,  
But holds from Virtue nothing.

*Vent.* Has he courage?

*Anth.* But just enough to season him from Coward.  
O, 'tis the coldest Youth upon a charge,  
The most deliberate fighter! If he ventures  
[As in *Illyria* once they say he did]  
To storm a Town, 'tis when he cannot chuse,  
When all the World have fixt their eyes upon him;  
And then he lives on that for seven years after:  
But at a close revenge he never fails.

*Vent.* I heard you challeng'd him.

*Anth.* I did, *Ventidius*.

What thinkst thou was his answer? 'twas so tame,—  
He said he had more ways than one to die;  
I had not.

*Vent.* Poor!

*Anth.* He has more ways than one;  
But he would chuse 'em all before that one.

*Vent.* He first would chuse an Ague, or a Fever?

*Anth.* No, It must be an Ague, not a Fever;  
He has not warmth enough to die by that.

*Vent.* Or old age, and a bed.

*Anth.* Ay there's his choice;  
He would live, like a lamp, to the last wink,  
And crawl upon the utmost verge of life.  
*O Hercules!* Why should a Man like this,  
Who dares not trust his fate for one great action,  
Be all the care of Heav'n? Why should he lord it  
O'er fourscore thousand Men, of whom, each one  
Is braver than himself?

*Vent.* You conquer'd for him;

*Philippi* knows it: there you shar'd with him  
That Empire, which your sword made all your own.

*Anth.* Fool that I was, upon my Eagles wings  
I bore this Wren, till I was tir'd with soaring,

And

And now he mounts above me.

Good Heav'ns! is this, is this the Man who braves me?  
Who bids my age make way: drives me before him,  
To the world's ridge, and sweeps me off like rubbish?

*Vent.* Sir, we lose time, the Troops are mounted all.

*Anth.* Then give the word to march.

I long to leave this prison of a Town,  
To join thy Legions; and in open field,  
Once more to shew my face. Lead, my Deliverer.

*Enter Alexas.*

*Alex.* Great Emperor,  
In mighty arms renown'd above mankind,  
But in soft pity to th' oppress'd, a God;  
This Message sends the mournful *Cleopatra*  
To her departing Lord.

*Vent.* Smooth Sycophant!

*Alex.* A thousand wishes, and ten thousand prayers,  
Millions of blessings wait you to the wars,  
Millions of sighs and tears she sends you too,  
And would have sent

As many dear embraces to your arms,  
As many parting kisses to your lips;  
But those, she fears, have weary'd you already.

*Vent. aside.)* False Crocodile! (leave her,

*Alex.* And yet she begs not now, you would not  
That were a wish too mighty for her hopes, (love;  
Too presuming for her low fortune, and your ebbing  
That were a wish for her more prosperous days,  
Her blooming beauty, and your growing kindness.

*Anth. aside.)* Well, I must man it out; What would  
the Queen?

*Alex.* First, to these noble Warriors, who attend  
Your daring courage in the chase of Fame,  
(Too daring, and too dang'rous for her quiet)  
She humbly recommends all she holds dear,  
All her own cares and fears, the care of you.

*Vent.* Yes, witness *Actium*.

*Anth.* Let him speak, *Ventidius*.

*Alex.*

*The WORLD well lost.* 37

*Alex.* You, when his matchless valour bears him  
With ardour too heroick, on his Foes, (forward

Fall down, as she would do, before his feet;  
Lye in his way, and stop the paths of death;  
Tell him, this God is not invulnerable;  
That absent *Cleopatra* bleeds in him:  
And, that you may remember her Petition,  
She begs you'll wear these trifles, as a pawn,  
Which at your wisht return, she will redeem

(*Gives Jewels to the Commanders.*)

With all the wealth of *Aegypt*.

This to the great *Ventidius* she presents,  
Whom she can never count her Enemy,  
Because he loves her Lord.

*Vent.* Tell her, I'll none on't;  
I'm not asham'd of honest Poverty:  
Not all the Diamonds of the *East* can bribe  
*Ventidius* from his faith. I hope to see  
These, and the rest of all her sparkling store,  
Where they shall more deservingly be plac'd.

*Anth.* And who must wear 'em then?

*Vent.* The wrong'd *Octavia*.

*Anth.* You might have spar'd that word.

*Vent.* And he that bribe.

*Anth.* But have I no remembrance?

*Alex.* Yes, a dear one:

Your slave, the Queen ———

*Anth.* My Mistress.

*Alex.* Then your Mistress,  
Your Mistress would, she says, have sent her Soul,  
But that you had long since; she humbly begs  
This Ruby Bracelet, set with bleeding hearts,  
(The emblems of her own) may bind your arm.

(*Presenting a Bracelet.*)

*Vent.* Now, my best Lord, in Honour's name I ask you,  
For Manhood's sake, and for your own dear safety,  
Touch not these poison'd gifts,  
Intected by the sender; touch 'em not:  
Myriads of bluest plagues lye underneath 'em,  
And more than aconite has dipt the silk.

C

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Nay, now you grow too cinical, *Ventidius*.  
 A Lady's Favours may be worn with honour.  
 What, to refuse her Bracelet! On my Soul,  
 When I lye penfive in my Tent alone,  
 'Twill pass the wakeful hours of winter-nights,  
 To tell these pretty beads upon my Arm;  
 To count for every one a soft embrace,  
 A melting kifs at such and such a time;  
 And now and then the fury of her love.  
 When ——— and what harm's in this?

*Alex.* None, none, my Lord,  
 But what's to her, that now 'tis past for ever. (tye it.

*Anth. going* } We Soldiers are so awkward — help me,  
*to tye it.* } *Alex.* In faith, my Lord, we Courtiers  
 too are awkward

In these affairs: so are all Men indeed;  
 Ev'n I, who am not one. But shall I speak?

*Anth.* Yes, freely.

*Alex.* Then, my Lord, fair hands alone  
 Are fit to tye it; she, who sent it, can.

*Vent.* Hell! Death! this Eunuch Pander ruins you.  
 You will not see her?

(*Alexas whispers an Attendant, who goes out.*)

*Anth.* But to take my leave.

*Vent.* Then I have wash'd an *Æthiope*. Y're undone;  
 Y're in the toils; y're taken; y're destroy'd:  
 Her eyes do *Cesar's* work.

*Anth.* You fear too soon.

I'm constant to my self; I know my strength:  
 And yet she shall not think me barbarous, neither,  
 Born in the depths of *Africk*: I'm a *Roman*,  
 Bred to the Rules of soft humanity.  
 A Guest, and kindly us'd, should bid farewell.

*Vent.* You do not know  
 How weak you are to her, how much an Infant:  
 You are not proof against a smile or glance;  
 A sigh will quite disarm you.

*Anth.* See, she comes!

Now you shall find your error. Gods, I thank you:  
 I form'd the danger greater than it was,  
 And, now 'tis near, 'tis lessen'd.

*Vent.*

*Vent.* Mark the end yet.

[*Enter Cleopatra, Charmion and Iras.*]

*Anth.* Well, Madam, we are met.

*Cleop.* Is this a meeting?

Then we must part?

*Anth.* We must.

*Cleop.* Who says we must?

*Anth.* Our own hard Fates.

*Cleop.* We makethose Fates our selves.

*Anth.* Yes, we have made 'em; we have lov'd each  
Unto our mutual ruin. (other

*Cleop.* The Gods have seen my joys with envious eyes;  
I have no Friends in Heav'n; and all the world  
(As 'twere the bus'ness of Mankind to part us)  
Is arm'd against my love: Ev'n you your self  
Join with the rest; you, you are arm'd against me.

*Anth.* I will be justify'd in all I do,  
To late posterity, and therefore hear me.  
If I mix a lye  
With any truth, reproach me freely with it;  
Else, favour me with silence.

*Cleop.* You command me,  
And I am dumb.

*Vent.* I like this well: he shews authority.

*Anth.* That I derive my ruin  
From you alone ———

*Cleop.* O Heav'ns! I ruin you!

*Anth.* You promis'd me your silence, and you break it  
E're I have scarce begun.

*Cleop.* Well, I obey you.

*Anth.* When I beheld you first, it was in *Ægypt*,  
E're *Casar* saw your eyes, you gave me love,  
And were too young to know it. That I settl'd  
Your Father in his Throne was for your sake;  
I left th' acknowledgment for time to ripen.  
*Casar* stept in, and with a greedy hand  
Pluck'd the green fruit, e're the first blush of red,  
Yet cleaving to the bough. He was my Lord,  
And was, beside, too great for me to rival;  
But, I deserv'd you first, though he enjoy'd you.

40 *ALL for LOVE: Or,*

When, after, I beheld you in *Cilicia*,  
An Enemy to *Rome*, I pardon'd you.

*Cleop.* I clear'd my self ———

*Anth.* Again you break your promise.  
I lov'd you still, and took your weak excuses ;  
Took you into my bosom, stain'd by *Cesar*,  
And not half mine : I went to *Aegypt* with you,  
And hid me from the bus'ness of the world,  
Shut out enquiring Nations from my sight,  
To give whole Years to you.

*Vent.* Yes, to your shame be't spoken, (*Aside.*

*Anth.* How I lov'd  
Witness ye Days and Nights, and all you Hours,  
That danc'd away with down upon your feet,  
As all your bus'ness were to count my passion.  
One day past by, and nothing saw but love ;  
Another came, and still 'twas only love.  
The Suns were weary'd out with looking on ;  
And I untir'd with loving.  
I saw you ev'ry day, and all the day ;  
And ev'ry day was still but as the first :  
So eager was I still to see you more.

*Vent.* 'Tis all too true.

*Anth.* *Fulvia*, my wife, grew jealous,  
As she indeed had reason ; rais'd a war  
In *Italy*, to call me back.

*Vent.* But yet  
You went not.

*Anth.* While within your arms I lay,  
The World fell mouldring from my hands each hour,  
And left me scarce a grasp ; I thank your love for't.

*Vent.* Well push'd : That last was home.

*Cleop.* Yet may I speak ?

*Anth.* If I have urg'd a falshood yes ; else not.  
Your silence says I have not. *Fulvia* dy'd ;  
(Pardon, you Gods, with my unkindness dy'd)  
'To set the World at peace, I took *Octavia*,  
This *Cesar's* Sister : in her pride of youth,  
And flow'r of beauty, did I wed that Lady,  
Whom blushing I must praise, because I left her.

You

You call'd ; my love obey'd the fatal summons :  
This rais'd the *Roman* Arms ; the cause was yours ;  
I would have fought by Land, where I was stronger ;  
You hindred it : yet, when I fought at sea,  
Forsook me fighting : and (Oh stain to Honour !  
Oh lasting shame ! ) I knew not that I fled ;  
But fled to follow you.

*Vent.* What haste she made to hoist her purple sails,  
And to appear magnificent in flight,  
Drew half our strength away.

*Anth.* All this you caus'd ;  
And would you multiply more ruins on me ?  
This honest Man, my best, my only Friend,  
Has gather'd up the shipwreck of my fortunes ;  
Twelve Legions I have left, my last recruits,  
And you have watch'd the news, and bring your eyes  
To seize them too. If you have ought to answer,  
Now speak, you have free leave.

*Alex. aside* ) She stands confounded :  
Despair is in her eyes.

*Vent.* Now lay a sigh i'th' way, to stop his passage :  
Prepare a tear, and bid it for his Legions ;  
'Tis like they shall be fold.

*Cleop.* How shall I plead my cause, when you my Judge  
Already have condemn'd me ? Shall I bring  
The love you bore me for my Advocate ?  
That now is turn'd against me ; that destroys me ;  
For love once past, is, at the best, forgotten ;  
But oftener sours to hate : 'Twill please my Lord  
To ruin me, and therefore I'll be guilty.  
But, could I once have thought it would have pleas'd you  
That you would pry with narrow searching eyes,  
Into my faults ; severe to my destruction ;  
And watching all advantages with care,  
That serve to make me wretched ? Speak, my Lord,  
For I end here. Though I deserve this usage,  
Was it like you to give it ?

*Anth.* O you wrong me,  
To think I sought this parting, or, desir'd  
To accuse you more than what will clear my self,  
And justify this breach.

*Cleop.* Thus low I thank you.  
And since my innocence will not offend,  
I shall not blush to own it.

*Vent.* After this  
I think she'll blush at nothing.

*Cleop.* You seem griev'd,  
(And therein you are kind) that *Cesar* first  
Enjoy'd my love, though you deserv'd it better :  
I grieve for that, my Lord, much more than you ;  
For, had I first been yours, it would have sav'd  
My second choice : I never had been his,  
And ne'er had been but yours. But *Cesar* first,  
You say, possess'd my love. Not so, my Lord ;  
He first possess'd my person ; you my love :  
*Cesar* lov'd me ; but I lov'd *Anthony*.  
If I endur'd him after, 'twas because  
I judg'd it due to the first name of men ;  
And half constrain'd, I gave, as to a Tyrant,  
What he would take by force.

*Vent.* O Syren ! Syren !  
Yet grant that all the love she boasts were true,  
Has she not ruin'd you ! I still urge that,  
The fatal consequence.

*Cleop.* The consequence indeed,  
For I dare challenge him, my greatest Foe,  
To say it was design'd : 'Tis true I lov'd you,  
And kept you far from an uneasy Wife :  
Such *Fulvia* was ———

Yes, but he'll say, you left *Octavia* for me ; ———  
And, can you blame me to receive that love,  
Which quitted such desert for worthless me :  
How often have I wish'd some other *Cesar*,  
Great as the first, and as the second young,  
Would court my love, to be refus'd for you ! (tium.

*Vent.* Words, words ; but *Actium*, Sir, remember *Ac*

*Cleop.* Ev'n there, I dare his malice. True, I counsel'd  
To fight at sea, but I betray'd you not.  
I fled, but not the Enemy : 'Twas fear.  
Would I had been a Man, not to have fear'd ;  
For none would then have envy'd me your friendship,  
Who envy me your love. *Anth*

*Anth.* We're both unhappy :

If nothing else, yet our ill fortune parts us.  
Speak, would you have me perish, by my stay ?

*Cleop.* If as a Friend you ask my judgment, go ;  
If as a Lover, stay. If you must perish ;  
'Tis a hard word ; but stay.

*Vent.* See now th' effects of her so boasted love ?  
She strives to drag you down to ruin with her :  
But, could she 'scape without you, oh how soon  
Would she let go her hold, and hast to shore,  
And never look behind !

*Cleop.* Then judge my love by this.

[Giving Anthony a writing.

Could I have born  
A life or death, a happiness or woe  
From yours divided, this had giv'n me means.

*Anth.* By *Hercules*, the writing of *Octavius* !  
I know it well, 'tis that proscribing hand,  
Young as 'twas, that led the way to mine,  
And left me but the second place in murder. ———  
See, see, *Ventidius* ! Here he offers *Ægypt*,  
And joins all *Syria* to it as a present,  
So, in requital, she forsake my fortunes,  
And join her Arms with his.

*Cleop.* And yet you leave me !  
You leave me, *Anthony* ; and yet I love you ;  
Indeed I do ; I have refus'd a Kingdom,  
That's a trifle :  
For I could part with life, with any thing,  
But only you. O let me die, but with you ;  
Is that a hard request ?

*Anth.* Next living with you,  
'Tis all that Heav'n can give.

*Alex. aside*) He melts ; we conquer.

*Cleop.* No, you shall go : Your int'rest calls you hence ;  
Yes, your dear int'rest pulls too strong, for these  
Weak arms to hold you here ——— (Takes his hand.  
Go, leave me Soldier ;

(For you're no more a Lover :) Leave me dying :  
Push me all pale and panting from your bosom ;

And

And when your March begins, let one run after,  
 Breathless almost for joy, and cry, She's dead :  
 The Soldiers shout ; you then perhaps may sigh,  
 And muster all your *Roman* gravity ;  
*Ventidius* chides ; and strait your brow clears up  
 As I had never been.

*Anth.* Gods ! 'tis too much ; too much for Man to bear !

*Cleop.* What is't for me then,  
 A weak forsaken Woman, and a Lover ?—  
 Here let me breathe my last : envy me not  
 This minute in your arms ; I'll die apace,  
 As fast as e'er I can ; and end your trouble.

*Anth.* Die ! Rather let me perish : loos'n'd Nature  
 Leap from its hinges : Sink the props of Heav'n,  
 And fall the skies to crush the nether world.

My eyes ! my soul ! my all !—

(*Embraces her.*)

*Vent.* And what's this toy  
 In balance with your Fortune, Honour, Fame ?

*Anth.* What is't, *Ventidius* ? It out-weighs 'em all :  
 Why, we have more than conquer'd *Caesar* now :  
 My Queen's not only innocent, but loves me.  
 This, this is she who drags me down to ruin !  
*But, could she'scape without me, wish what haste.*  
*Would she let slip her hold, and make to shore,*  
*And never look behind !*

Down on thy knees, Blasphemer as thou art,  
 And ask forgiveness of wrong'd Innocence.

*Vent.* I'll rather die, than take it : Will you go ?

*Anth.* Go ! Whither ? Go from all that's excellent !  
 Faith, Honour, Virtue, all good things forbid  
 That I should go from her, who sets my love  
 Above the price of Kingdoms. Give, you Gods,  
 Give to your Boy, your *Caesar*,  
 This Rattle of a Globe to play withal,  
 This gew-gaw World, and put him cheaply off :  
 I'll not be pleas'd with less than *Cleopatra*.

*Cleop.* She's wholly yours. My heart's so full of joy,  
 That I shall do some wild extravagance  
 Of love in publick ; and the foolish World,  
 Which knows not tenderness, will think me mad.

*Vent.*

*The WORLD well lost.*

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*Vent.* O Women! Women! Women! All the Gods  
Have not such pow'r of doing good to Man,  
As you of doing harm. *(Exit.*

*Anth.* Our Men are arm'd.  
Unbar the Gate that looks to *Cæsar's* Camp;  
I would revenge the treachery he meant me:  
And long security makes conquest easie.  
I'm eager to return before I go;  
For, all the pleasures I have known, beat thick  
On my remembrance: How I long for night!  
That both the sweets of mutual love may try,  
And once triumph o'er *Cæsar* e're we die. *(Exeunt.*

---

A C T III.

*At one door enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras, Alexas, and a Train of Ægyptians: At the other, Anthony and Romans. The entrance on both sides is prepar'd by Musick; the Trumpets first sounding on Anthony's part: Then answer'd by Timbrels, &c. on Cleopatra's. Charmion and Iras hold a Laurel wreath betwixt them. A Dance of Ægyptians. After the ceremony, Cleopatra crowns Anthony.*

*Anthony.*

**I** Thought how those white arms would fold me in,  
And strain me close, and melt me into love;  
So pleas'd with that sweet Image, I sprung forwards,  
And added all my strength to every blow.

*Cleop.* Come to me, come my Soldier, to my Arms,  
You've been too long away from my embraces:  
But, when I have you fast, and all my own,  
With broken murmurs, and with am'rous sighs,

I'll

I'll say, you were unkind, and punish you ;  
And mark you red with many an eager kiss.

*Anth.* My brighter *Venus* !

*Cleop.* O my greater *Mars* !

*Anth.* Thou join'st us well, my Love !

Suppose me come from the *Phlegrean* plains,  
Where gasping Gyants lay, cleft by my sword ;  
And mountain-tops par'd off each other blow,  
To bury those I slew : receive me, Goddess :  
Let *Cæsar* spread his subtle nets, like *Vulcan*,  
In thy embrace I would be beheld  
By Heav'n and Earth at once :  
And make their envy what they meant their sport.  
Let those who took us blush, I would love on  
With awful state, regardless of their frowns,  
As their superior God.  
There's no satiety of love in thee ;  
Enjoy'd thou still art new ; perpetual spring  
Is in thy arms ; the ripen'd fruit but falls,  
And blossoms rise to fill its empty place ;  
And I grow rich by giving.

*Enter Ventidius, and stands apart.*

*Alex.* O, now the danger's past, your General comes,  
He joins not in your joys, nor minds your triumphs,  
But, with contracted brows, looks frowning on,  
As envying your success.

*Anth.* Now on my Soul, he loves me; truly loves me;  
He never flatter'd me in any vice,  
But awes me with his Virtue ; ev'n this minute  
Methinks he has a right of chiding me ;  
Lead to the Temple : I'll avoid his presence ;  
It checks too strong upon me. *(Exeunt the rest.)*

*As Anthony is going, Ventidius pulls him by the Robe.*

*Vent.* Emperor. (me.

*Anth. look- } 'Tis the old argument; I pr'y thee spare*  
*ing back. } Vent. But this one hearing, Emperor.*

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Lergo

My Robe ; or, by my Father *Hercules* ———

*Vent.* By *Hercules* his Father, that's yet greater,  
I bring you somewhat you would wish to know.

*Anth.* Thou see'st we are observ'd ; attend me here,  
And I'll return. (*Exit.*)

*Vent.* I'm waining in his favour, yet I love him ;  
I love this Man, who runs to meet his ruin ;  
And, sure the Gods, like me, are fond of him :  
His Virtues lie so mingled with his Crimes,  
As would confound their choice to punish one,  
And not reward the other.

*Enter Anthony.*

*Anth.* We can conquer,  
You see, without your aid.  
We have dislodg'd their troops,  
They look on us at distance, and like Curs  
'Scap'd from the Lions paws, they bay far off.  
And lick their wounds, and faintly threaten War.  
Five thousand *Romans*, with their faces upward,  
Lye breathless on the plain.

*Vent.* 'Tis well : And he  
Who lost 'em, could have spar'd ten thousand more.  
Yet if, by this advantage, you could gain  
An easier peace, while *Caesar* doubts the chance  
Of Arms ———

*Anth.* O think not on't, *Ventidius* ;  
The Boy pursues my ruin ; he'll no peace :  
His malice is confederate in advantage.  
O, he's the coolest murderer ! so stanch,  
He kills, and keeps his temper.

*Vent.* Have you no Friend  
In all his Army, who has power to move him ?  
*Mecenas*, or *Agrippa*, might do much.

*Anth.* They're both too deep in *Caesar*'s interests.  
We'll Work it out by dint of sword, or perish.

*Vent.* Fain I would find some other.

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Thank thy love.

Some four or five such victories as this,  
Will save thy father pains.

*Vent.* Expect no more ; *Cesar* is on his guard :  
I know, Sir, you have conquer'd against odds :  
But still you draw supplies from one poor Town,  
And of *Egyptians* : He has all the World,  
And at his beck Nations come pouring in,  
To fill the gaps you make. Pray think again.

*Anth.* Why dost thou drive me from my self, to search  
For foreign aids ? To hunt my memory ;  
And range all o'er a waste and barren place  
To find a Friend ? The wretched have no Friends —  
Yet I had one, the bravest Youth of *Rome*,  
Whom *Cesar* loves beyond the love of Women ;  
He could resolve his mind, as fire does wax,  
From that hard rugged image, melt him down,  
And mould him in what softer form he pleas'd.

*Vent.* Him would I see ; that Man of all the world :  
Just such a one we want.

*Anth.* He lov'd me too.

I was his Soul ; he liv'd not but in me :  
We were so clos'd within each other's breasts,  
The rivets were not found that join'd us first.  
That does not reach us yet : We were so mixt,  
As meeting streams, both to our selves were lost ;  
We were one mass ; we could not give or take,  
But from the same ; for he was I, I he.

*Vent. aside.]* He moves as I would wish him.

*Anth.* After this,

I need not tell his name : 'Twas *Dolabella*.

*Vent.* He's now in *Cesar's* Camp.

*Anth.* No matter where,

Since he's no longer mine. He took unkindly  
That I forbid him *Cleopatra's* sight ;  
Because I fear'd he lov'd her : he confess'd  
He had a warmth, which, for my sake, he stiff'd ;  
For 'twere impossible that two, so one,  
Should not have lov'd the same. When he departed,  
He took no leave ; and that confirm'd my thoughts.

*Vent.*

*Vent.* It argues that he lov'd you more than her,  
Else he had stay'd ; but he perceiv'd you jealous,  
And would not grieve his Friend : I know he loves you.

*Anth.* I shou'd have seen him then e're now.

*Vent.* Perhaps

He has thus long been lab'ring for your peace.

*Anth.* Would he were here.

*Vent.* Would you believe he lov'd you ?

I read your answer in your eyes ; you would.

Not to conceal it longer, he has sent

A Messenger from *Cæsar's* Camp, with Letters.

*Anth.* Let him appear.

*Vent.* I'll bring him instantly.

(*Exit Ventidius, and re-enters immediately with*

*Dolabella. Ant. runs to embrace him*)

*Anth.* 'Tis he himself, himself, by holy Friendship :

Art thou return'd at last, my better half ?

Come, give me all my self. Let me not live,

If the young Bridegroom, longing for the night,

Was ever half so fond.

*Dola.* I must be silent ; for my Soul is busie

About a noble work : she's new come home,

Like a long absent Man, and wanders o'er

Each room, a stranger to her own, to look

If all be safe.

*Anth.* Thou hast what's left of me ;

For I am now so lunk from what I was,

Thou find'st me at my lowest water-mark.

The rivers that ran in, and rais'd my Fortunes,

Are all dry'd up, or take another course :

What I have left is from my native spring ;

I've still a heart that swells, in scorn of Fate,

And lifts me to my banks

*Dola.* Still you are Lord of all the World to me.

*Anth.* Why, then I yet am so ; for thou art all.

If I had any joy when thou wert absent,

Grudg'd it to my self ; methought I robb'd

Thee of thy part. But Oh, my *Dolabella* ?

Thou hast beheld me other than I am.

Hast thou not seen my morning chambers fill'd

D

With

With Scepter'd Slaves, who waited to salute me ?  
 With Eastern Monarchs, who forgot the Sun,  
 To worship my up-rising ? Menial Kings  
 Run courting up and down my Palace-yard ;  
 Stood silent in my presence, watch'd my eyes,  
 And, at my least command, all started out  
 Like Racers to the Goal.

*Dola.* Slaves to your Fortune.

*Anth.* Fortune is *Cesar's* now ; and what am I ?

*Vent.* What you have made your self ; I will not flatter.

*Anth.* Is this now friendly done ?

*Dola.* Yes, when his end is so. I must join with him ;  
 Indeed I must, and yet you must not chide :  
 Why am I else your Friend ?

*Anth.* Take heed, young Man,  
 How thou upbraid'st my love : the Queen has eyes,  
 And thou too hast a Soul. Canst thou remember  
 When, swell'd with hatred, thou beheld'st her first,  
 As necessary to thy Brother's death ?

*Dola.* Spare my remembrance, 'twas a guilty day,  
 And still the blush hangs here.

*Anth.* To clear her self,  
 For sending him no aid, she came from *Agypt*.  
 Her Gally down the silver *Cydno's* row'd,  
 The tackling Silk, the Streamers wav'd with Gold,  
 The gentle Winds were lodg'd in purple Sails :  
 Her Nymphs, like *Nereids*, round her Couch were plac'd  
 Where she, another sea-born *Venus* lay.

*Dola.* No more : I would not hear it.

*Anth.* O you must !

She lay, and leant her cheek upon her hand,  
 And cast a look so languishingly sweet,  
 As if, secure of all Beholders hearts,  
 Neglecting she could take 'em. Boys, like *Cupids*,  
 Stood fanning, with their painted wings, the Winds  
 That plaid about her face : But if she smil'd,  
 A darting glory seem'd to blaze abroad :  
 That Mens desiring eyes were never weary'd ;  
 But hung upon the Object. To soft flutes  
 The silver oars kept time ; and while they plaid,

*The WORLD well lost.*

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The hearing gave new pleasures to the sight;  
And both to thought. 'Twas Heav'n or somewhat more;  
For she so charm'd all hearts, that gazing Crowds  
Stood panting on the shore, and wanted breath  
To give their welcome voice.

Then, *Dolabella*, where was then thy Soul?  
Was not thy fury quite disarm'd with wonder?  
Didst thou not shrink behind me from those eyes?  
And whisper in my ear; Oh, tell her not  
That I accus'd her with my Brother's death?

*Dola.* And should my weakness be a plea for yours?  
Mine was an age when love might be excus'd,  
When kindly warmth, and when my springing youth  
Made it a debt to Nature. Yours ———

*Vent.* Speak boldly.

Yours, he would say, in your declining age,  
When no more heat was left but what you forc'd;  
When all the sap was needful for the trunk,  
When it went down, then you constrain'd the course,  
And robb'd from Nature, to supply Desire.  
In you (I would not use so harsh a word)  
But 'tis plain dotage.

*Anth.* Ha!

*Dola.* 'Twas urg'd too home.  
But yet the loss was private that I made;  
'Twas but my self I lost: I lost no Legions;  
I had no World to lose, no People's love.

*Anth.* This from a Friend?

*Dola.* Yes, *Anthony*, a true one;  
A Friend so tender, that each word I speak,  
Stabs my own heart, before it reach your ear.  
O, judge me not less kind because I chide:  
To *Cesar* I excuse you.

*Anth.* O ye Gods!

Have I then liv'd to be excus'd to *Cesar*?

*Dola.* As to your equal:  
While I wear this, he never shall be more.  
I bring conditions from him.

*Anth.* Are they noble?

Methinks thou should'st not bring 'em else: yet he

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Is full of deep dissembling ; knows no Honour,  
Divided from his Int'rest. Fate mistook him ;  
For Nature meant him for an Usurer ;  
He's fit indeed to buy, not conquer Kingdoms,

*Vent.* Then, granting this,  
What pow'r was theirs who wrought so hard a temper  
To honourable Terms ?

*Anth.* It was my *Dolabella*, or some God.

*Dola.* Not I ; nor yet *Mecenas*, nor *Agrippa* :  
They were your Enemies, and I a Friend  
Too weak alone ; yet 'twas a *Roman's* deed.

*Anth.* 'Twas like a *Roman* done : Shew me that Man  
Who has preserv'd my Life, my Love, my Honour :  
Let me but see his face.

*Vent.* That task is mine ;  
And, Heav'n, thou know'st how pleasing.

(*Exit Vent.*)

*Dola.* You'll remember  
To whom you stand oblig'd ;

*Anth.* When I forget it,  
Be thou unkind, and that's my greatest curse.  
My Queen shall thank him too.

*Dola.* I fear she will not.

*Anth.* But she shall do'r. The Queen, my *Dolabella* !  
Hast thou not still some grudgings of thy fever ?

*Dola.* I would not see her lost.

*Anth.* When I forsake her,  
Leave me, my better Stars ; for she has truth  
Beyond her beauty. *Cesar* tempted her,  
At no less price than Kingdoms, to betray me ;  
But she resisted all : And yet thou chid'st me  
For loving her too well. Could I do so ?

*Dola.* Yes, there's my reason.

*Re-enter Ventidius with Octavia, leading Anthony's two  
little Daughters.*

*Anth.* Where ! *Octavia* there !      (*Starting back.*)

*Vent.* What, is she poison to you ? A disease ?  
Look on her, view her well, and those she brings :

*Are*

Are they all strangers to your eyes ? Has Nature  
No secret call, no whispers they are yours ?

*Dola.* For shame, my Lord, if not for love, receive 'em  
With kinder eyes. If you confess a Man,  
Meet 'em, embrace 'em, bid 'em welcome to you.  
Your arms should open, ev'n without your knowledge  
To clasp 'em in ; your feet should turn to wings  
To bear you to 'em ; and your eyes dart out,  
And aim a kiss e're you could reach the lips.

*Anth.* I stood amaz'd to think how they came hither.

*Vent.* I sent for 'em ; I brought 'em in, unknown  
To *Cleopatra's* Guards.

*Dola.* Yet are you cold ?

*Ost.* Thus long I have attended for my welcome ;  
Which, as a Stranger, sure I might expect.  
Who am I ?

*Anth.* *Cesar's* Sister.

*Ost.* That's unkind !

Had I been nothing more than *Cesar's* Sister,  
Know, I had still remain'd in *Cesar's* Camp ;  
But your *Ost.*, your much injur'd Wife,  
Though banish'd from your bed, driv'n from your  
In spite of *Cesar's* Sister, still is yours. (house-  
'Tis true, I have a heart disdains your coldness,  
And prompts me not to seek what you should offer ;  
But a Wife's Virtue still surmounts that pride.  
I come to claim you as my own ; to shew  
My duty first, to ask, nay beg your kindness :  
Your hand, my Lord, 'tis mine, and I will have it.

(Taking his hand.

*Vent.* Do, take it, thou deserv'st it.

*Dola.* On my Soul,

And so she does : She's neither too submissive,  
Nor yet too haughty ; but so just a mean,  
Shews, as it ought, a Wife and *Roman* too.

*Anth.* I fear, *Ost.*, you have begg'd my life.

*Ost.* Begg'd it, my Lord ?

*Anth.* Yes, begg'd it, my Ambassador,  
Poorly and basely begg'd it of your Brother.

*Ost.* Poorly and basely I could never beg ;  
Nor could my Brother grant.

*Anth.* Shall I, who to my kneeling Slave, could say ;  
Rise up, and be a King ; shall I fall down  
And cry, forgive me *Cesar* ? Shall I set  
A Man, my equal, in the place of *Jove*,  
As he could give me being ? No, that word  
*Forgive*, would choak me up,  
And die upon my tongue.

*Dola.* You shall not need it.

*Anth.* I will not need it. Come, you've all betray'd me.  
My Friend too ! To receive some vile conditions,  
My Wife has bought me, with her prayers and tears ;  
And now I must become her branded Slave.  
In every peevish mood she will upbraid  
The life she gave : if I but look awry,  
She cries, I'll tell my Brother.

*Octav.* My hard fortune  
Subjects me still to your unkind mistakes.  
But the conditions I have brought are such  
You need not blush to take : I love your Honour,  
Because 'tis mine ; it never shall be said  
*Octavia's* Husband was her Brother's Slave.  
Sir, you are free ; free, ev'n from her you loath ;  
For, though my Brother bargains for your love,  
Makes me the price and cement of your Peace,  
I have a Soul like yours ; I cannot take  
Your love as Alms, nor beg what I deserve.  
I'll tell my Brother we are reconcil'd ;  
He shall draw back his Troops, and you shall march  
To rule the *East* : I may be dropt at *Athens* ;  
No matter where, I never will complain,  
But only keep the barren name of Wife,  
And rid you of the trouble.

*Vent.* Was ever such a strife of sullen honour !  
Both scorn'd to be oblig'd.

*Dola.* Oh, she has touch'd him in the tender'st part ;  
See how he reddens with despight and shame  
To be out-done in generosity !

*Vent.* See how he winks ! how he dries up a tear  
That fain would fall !

*Anth.* *Octavia*, I have heard you, and must praise  
The greatness of your Soul ;

But

But cannot yield to what you have propos'd :  
For I can ne'er be conquer'd but by love ;  
And you do all for Duty. You would free me,  
And would be dropt at *Athens* was't not so ?

*Ostau.* It was, my Lord.

*Anth.* Then I must be oblig'd  
To one who loves me not, who to her self,  
May call me thankless and ungrateful Man :  
I'll not endure it, no.

*Vent.* I'm glad it pinches there.

*Ostau.* Would you triumph o'er poor *Ostavia's* Virtue,  
That pride was all I had to bear me up ;  
That you might think you ow'd me for your life,  
And ow'd it to my Duty, not my Love.  
I have been injur'd, and my haughty Soul  
Could brook but ill the Man who flights my bed.

*Anth.* Therefore you love me not ?

*Ostau.* Therefore, my Lord,  
I should not love you.

*Anth.* Therefore you would leave me ?

*Ostau.* And therefore I should leave you—If I could.

*Dola.* Her Soul's too great, after such injuries,  
To say she loves ; and yet she lets you see it.  
Her modesty and silence plead her cause.

*Anth.* Oh *Dolabella*, which way shall I ? turn  
I find a secret yielding in my Soul ;  
But, *Cleopatra*, who would die with me,  
Must she be left ? Pity pleads for *Ostavia* ;  
But does it not plead more for *Cleopatra* ?

*Vent.* Justice and Pity both plead for *Ostavia* ;  
For *Cleopatra*, neither.

One would be ruin'd with you ; but she first  
Had ruin'd you ; the other you have ruin'd,  
And yet she would preserve you.

In every thing their merits are unequal.

*Anth.* Oh, my distracted Soul !

*Ostau.* Sweet Heav'n compose it.

Come, come, my Lord, If I can pardon you,  
Methinks you should accept it. Look on these ;  
Are they not yours ? Or stand they thus neglected

As they are mine? Go to him, Children, go;  
 Kneel to him, take him by the hand, speak to him;  
 For you may speak, and he may own you too,  
 Without a blush; and so he cannot all  
 His Children: Go, I say, and pull him to me,  
 And pull him to your selves, from that bad Woman.  
 You, *Agrippina*, hang upon his arms;  
 And you, *Antonia*, clasp about his waste:  
 If he will shake you off, if he will dash you  
 Against the pavement, you must bear it, Children;  
 For you are mine, and I was born to suffer.

(*Here the Children go to him, &c.*)

*Vent.* Was ever sight so moving! Emperor!

*Dola.* Friend.

*Octav.* Husband!

*Both Children.* Father!

*Anth.* I am vanquish'd: Take me,  
*Octavia*; take me, Children; share me all.

(*Embracing them.*)

I've been a thriftless debtor to your loves,  
 And run out much in riot, from your stock:  
 But all shall be amended.

*Octav.* O bless'd hour!

*Dola.* O happy change!

*Vent.* My joy stops at my tongue;  
 But it has found two Channels here for one,  
 And bubbles out above. (thou wilt;

*Anth. to Octav.* This is thy Triumph; lead me where  
 Ev'n to thy Brother's Camp.

*Octav.* All there are yours.

*Enter Alexas hastily.*

*Alex.* The Queen, my Mistress, Sir, and yours ——

*Anth.* 'Tis past. *Octavia*, you shall stay this night:  
 To morrow,  
*Cesar* and we are one. [Ex. leading *Octavia*; *Dola.*

*and the Children follow.*

*Vent.* There's news for you; run,  
 My officious Eunuch,

Be

Be sure to be the first ; haste forward :

Haste, my dear Eunuch, haste.

(*Exit.*

*Alex.* This downright fighting Fool, this thick-  
scull'd Hero,

This blunt unthinking instrument of death,  
With plain dull Virtue has out-gone my wit.

Pleasure forlook my early't Infancy,

The Luxury of others robb'd my cradle,

And ravish'd thence the promise of a Man :

Cast out from Nature, disinherited

Of what her meanest Children claim by kind :

Yet, greatness kept me from contempt : That's gone.

Had *Cleopatra* follow'd my Advice,

Then he had been betray'd, who now forsakes.

She dies for love ; but she has known its joys,

Gods, is this just, that I who know no joys,

Must die, because she loves ?

*Enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras, Train.*

Oh, Madam, I have seen what blasts my eyes ?

*Octavia's* here !

*Cleop.* Peace with that Raven's note.

I know it too : and now am in

The Pangs of Death.

*Alex.* You are no more a Queen :

*Ægypt* is lost.

*Cleop.* What tell'st thou me of *Ægypt* ?

My Life, my Soul is lost ! *Octavia* has him !

O fatal name to *Cleopatra's* love !

My kisses, my embraces now are hers ;

While I ——— But thou hast seen my Rival ; speak ;

Does she deserve this blessing ? Is she fair,

Bright as a Goddess, and is all Perfection

Confin'd to her ? It is. Poor I was made

Of that coarse matter which, when she was finish'd,

The Gods threw by for rubbish.

*Alex.* She's indeed a very miracle.

*Cleop.* Death to my hopes ; a miracle !

*Alex.* Bowing. A Miracle

I mean of goodness ; for in beauty, Madam,

You make all wonders cease.

*Cleop.*

*Cleop.* I was too rash :  
Take this in part of recompence. But, oh,  
I fear thou flatter'st me. *(giving a Ring.)*

*Char.* She comes ! She's here !

*Iras.* Flie, Madam, *Caesar's* Sister !

*Cleop.* Were she the Sister of the Thund'rer *Jove*,  
And bore her Brother's Lightning in her eyes,  
Thus would I face my Rival.

*(Meets Octav. with Ventid.)*

*(Octav. bears up to her. Their Trains come up on  
either side.)*

*Octav.* I need not ask if you are *Cleopatra* ;  
Your haughty carriage——

*Cleop.* Shews I am a Queen :  
Nor need I ask who you are.

*Octav.* A Roman .

A Name that makes and can unmake a Queen : *(man.)*

*Cleop.* Your Lord the Man who serves me, is a Ro-

*Octav.* He was a Roman, 'till he lost that name  
To be a Slave in *Ægypt* ; but I come  
To free him thence.

*Cleop.* Peace, peace, my Lover's *Juno*.  
When he grew weary of that house-hold clog  
He chose my easier bonds.

*Octav.* I wonder not  
Your bonds are easie ; you have long practis'd  
In that lascivious art : he's not the first  
For whom you spread your snares ? Let *Caesar* witness.

*Cleop.* I lov'd not *Caesar* ; 'twas but gratitude  
I paid his love : The worst your malice can,  
Is but to say, the greatest of Mankind  
Has been my Slave. The next, but far above him  
In my esteem, is he whom Law calls yours,  
But whom his love made mine.

*Octav. coming up close to her.)* I would view nearer  
That face which has so long usurp'd my right,  
To find th'inevitable Charms, that catch  
Mankind so sure ; that ruin'd my dear Lord.

*Cleop.* O you do well to search ; for had you known  
But half these Charms you had not lost his heart.

*Octav.*

*Ostav.* Far be their knowledge from a *Roman Lady* :  
Far from a modest Wife. Shame of our Sex,  
Dost thou not blush, to own those black endearments  
That make sin pleasing ?

*Cleop.* You may blush, who want 'em.  
If bounteous Nature, if indulgent Heav'n  
Have giv'n me Charms to please the bravest Men,  
Should I not thank 'em ? Should I be ashamed,  
And not be proud ? I am, that he has lov'd me ;  
And, when I love not him, Heav'n change this face  
For one like that.

*Ostav.* Thou lov'st him not so well.

*Cleop.* I love him better, and deserve him more.

*Ostav.* You do not ; cannot : You have been his ruin.  
Who made him cheap at *Rome*, but *Cleopatra* ?  
Who made him scorn'd abroad but *Cleopatra* ?  
At *Actium*, who betray'd him ? *Cleopatra*.  
Who made his Children Orphans, and poor me  
A wretched Widow ? Only *Cleopatra*.

*Cleo.* Yet she who loves him best is *Cleopatra*.  
If you have suffer'd, I have suffer'd more.  
You bear the specious Title of a Wife,  
To gild your cause, and draw the pitying World  
To favour it : The World contemns poor me ;  
For I have lost my Honour, lost my Fame,  
And stain'd the Glory of my Royal House,  
And all to bear the branded name of Mistress !  
There wants but life, and that too I would lose  
For him I love.

*Ostav.* Be't so then, take thy wish.

(Exit.

*Cleop.* And 'tis my wish,  
Now he is lost for whom alone I liv'd.  
My sight grows dim, and every object dances,  
And swims before me, in the maze of death.  
My Spirits, while they were oppos'd, kept up ;  
They could not sink beneath a Rival's scorn :  
But now she's gone they faint.

*Alex.* Mine have had leisure  
To recollect their strength, and furnish counsel,  
To ruin her ; who else must ruin you.

*Cleop.*

*Cleop.* Vain promiser!

Lead me, my *Charmion*; nay your hand too, *Iras*;

My grief has weight enough to sink you both.

Conduct me to some solitary chamber,

And draw the curtains round;

Then leave me to my self, to take alone

My fill of grief:

There I'll till death will his unkindness weep;

As harmless Infants moan themselves asleep.

(*Exeunt.*)

## A C T. IV.

*Enter Anthony, and Dolabella.*

*Dolabella.*

**W**Hy would you shift it from your self, on me?  
Can you not tell her you must part?

*Anth.* I cannot:

I could pull out an eye, and bid it go,

And t'other should not weep. Oh, *Dolabella*,

How many Deaths are in this word *depart*!

I dare not trust my tongue to tell her so:

One look of hers would thaw me into tears,

And I should melt 'till I were lost again.

*Dola.* Then let *Ventidius*;

He's rough by nature.

*Anth.* Oh, he'll speak too harshly;

He'll kill her with the news: Thou, only thou.

*Dola.* Nature has cast me in so soft a mould,

That but to hear a story feign'd for pleasure

Of some sad Lover's death, moistens my eyes,

And robs me of my manhood. ——— I should speak

Softly; with such fear to grieve her heart,

She'd not believe it earnest.

*Anth.* Therefore; therefore

Thou only, thou art fit: Think thy self me.

And when thou speak'st (but let it first be long)

Take

Take off the edge from every sharper sound,  
And let our parting be as gently made  
As other loves begin. Wilt thou do this?

*Dola.* What you have said, so sinks into my Soul,  
That, if I must speak, I shall speak just so.

*Anth.* I leave you then to your sad task: Farewel.  
I sent her word to meet you.

*(Goes to the door, and comes back.)*

I forgot;

Let her be told, I'll make her peace with mine:  
Her crown and Dignity shall be preserv'd,  
If I have pow'r with *Cæsar*.—O, be sure  
To think on that.

*Dola.* Fear not, I will remember.

*(Anthony goes again to the door, and comes back.)*

*Anth.* And tell her too, how much I was constrain'd;  
I did not this, but with extremest force.  
Desire her not to hate my memory,  
For I still cherish hers;—insist on that.

*Dola.* Trust me, I'll not forget it.

*Anth.* Then that's all. *(Goes out, and returns again.)*  
Wilt thou forgive my fondness this once more?  
Tell her, though we shall never meet again,  
If I should hear she took another Love,  
The news would break my heart. — Now I must go;  
For every time I have return'd, I feel  
My Soul more tender, and my next command  
Would be to bid her stay, and ruin both.

*(Exit.)*

*Dola.* Men are but Children of a larger growth;  
Our appetites as apt to change as theirs,  
And full as craving too, and full as vain:  
And yet the Soul, shut up in her dark room,  
Viewing so clear abroad, at home sees nothing;  
But, like a Mole in earth, busie and blind,  
Works all her folly up, and casts it outward  
To the world's open view: Thus I discover'd,  
And blam'd the love of ruin'd *Anthony*;  
Yet wish that I were he, to be so ruin'd.

*Enter Ventidius above.*

*Vent.* Alone, and talking to himself? concern'd too?  
Perhaps my guess is right: he lov'd her once,  
And may pursue it still.

*Dola.* O Friendship! Friendship!  
Ill canst thou answer this, and Reason, worse:  
Unfaithful in th'attempt; hopeless to win;  
And if I win, undone: Mere madness all.  
And yet th'occasion's fair. What injury  
To him, to wear the Robe which he throws by?

*Vent.* None, none at all. This happens as I wish,  
To ruin her yet more with *Anthony*.

*Enter Cleopatra, talking with Alexas; Charmion and  
Iras on the other side.*

(*face!*

*Dola.* She comes! What charms hath sorrow on that  
Sorrow seems pleas'd to dwell with so much sweetness;  
Yet, now and then, a melancholy smile  
Breaks loose, like Lightning in a winter's night,  
And shews a moment's day.

*Vent.* If she should love him too! Her Eunuch there,  
That *Porcupisce* bodes ill weather.  
Draw, draw nearer,  
Sweet Devil, that I may hear.

(*Dolabella goes over to Charmion and Iras;  
seems to talk with them.*

*Alex.* Believe me; try  
To make him jealous; Jealousie is like  
A glass held to the lips when life's in doubt:  
If there be breath, 'twill catch the damp and shew it.

*Cleop.* I grant you jealousie's is a proof of love;  
But 'tis a weak and unavailing med'cine:  
It purs out the disease, and makes it shew,  
But has no pow'r to cure.

*Alex.* 'Tis your last remedy, and strongest too.  
And then this *Dolabella*; who so fit  
To practice on? He's handsome, valiant, young,  
And looks as he were laid for Nature's bait

To

To catch weak Womens eyes.  
He stands already more than half suspected  
Of loving you: The least, kind word or glance  
You give this Youth, will kindle him with love:  
Then, like a burning Vessel set a drift,  
You'll send him down again before the wind,  
To fire the heart of jealous *Anthony*.

*Cleop.* Can I do this? Ah no; my love's so true,  
That I can neither hide it where it is,  
Nor shew it where it is not. Nature meant me  
A Wife, a silly harmless house-hold dove,  
Fond without art, and kind without deceit;  
But Fortune, that has made a Mistress of me,  
Has thrust me out to the wide world, unturnish'd  
Of falsehood to be happy.

*Alex.* Force your self.

Th'event will be, your Lover will return  
Doubly desirous to possess the good  
Which once he fear'd to lose.

*Cleop.* I must attempt it;  
But oh with what regret!

*Exit Alex. (She comes up to Dolabella.*

*Vent.* So now the Scene draws near, they're in my reach.

*Cleop. to Dola.*) Discourfing with my Women! Might  
Share in your entertainment? (not I

*Char.* You have been  
The subject of it, Madam.

*Cleop.* How, and how?

*Iras.* Such praises of your beauty!

*Cleop.* Mere Poetry!

Your *Roman Wits*, your *Gallus* and *Tibullus*,  
Have taught you this from *Citheris* and *Delia*.

*Dola.* Those *Roman Wits* have never been in *Ægypt*.  
*Citheris* and *Delia* else had been unsung.

I, who have seen—had I been born a Poet,  
Should chuse a nobler Name.

*Cleop.* You flatter me.

But, 'tis your Nation's vice: All of your Country  
Are Flatterers, and all false. Your Friend's like you.  
I'm sure he sent you not to speak these words.

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*Dola.* No, Madam ; yet he sent me—

*Cleop.* Well, he sent you—

*Dola.* Of a less pleasing errand.

*Cleop.* How less pleasing ?

Less to your self, or me ?

*Dola.* Madam, to both ?

For you must mourn, and I must grieve to cause it.

*Cleop.* You *Charmion*, and your fellow stand at distance.

(*Aside*) Hold up, my spirits—Well, now Your mourn-  
(ful matter,

For I'm prepar'd, perhaps can guess it too.

*Dola.* I wish you would ; for 'tis a thankless office  
To tell ill news : And I, of all your Sex,  
Most fear displeasing you.

*Cleop.* Of all your Sex,  
I soonest could forgive you, if you should.

*Vent.* Most delicate advances ! Woman ! Woman !  
Dear damn'd inconstant Sex.

*Cleop.* In the first place,  
I am to be forsaken ; is't not so ?

*Dola.* I wish I could not answer to that question.

*Cleop.* Then pass it over, because it troubles you :  
I should have been more griev'd another time.  
Next, I'm to lose my Kingdom—Farewel *Ægypt*.  
Yet, is there any more ?

*Dola.* Madam, I fear  
Your too deep sense of grief has turn'd your reason.

*Cleop.* No, no, I'm not run mad ; I can bear Fortune ;  
And love may be expell'd by other love,  
As poisons are by poisons.

*Dola.*—You o'erjoy me, Madam,  
To find your griefs so moderately born.  
You've heard the worst : all are not false, like him.

*Cleop.* No, Heav'n forbid they should.

*Dola.* Some Men are constant.

*Cleop.* And constancy deserves reward, that's certain.

*Dola.* Deserves it not ; but give it leave to hope.

*Vent.* I'll swear thou hast my leave. I have enough :  
But how to manage this ! Well, I'll consider.

*Dola.*

*Dola.* I came prepar'd,  
To tell you heavy news; News, which I thought,  
Would fright the blood from your pale cheeks to hear;  
But you have met it with a cheerfulness  
That makes my task more easie: and my tongue,  
Which on another's message was employ'd,  
Would'g'adly speak its own.

*Cleop.* Hold, *Dolabella*.  
First tell me, were you chosen by my Lord?  
O: fought you this employment?

*Dola.* He pick'd me out; and, as his bosom-Friend,  
He charg'd me with his words.

*Cleop.* The Message then  
I know was tender, and each accent smooth,  
To mollifie that rugged word *Depart*.

*Dola.* Oh, you mistake: He chose the hardest words,  
With fiery eyes, and with contracted brows,  
He coin'd his face in the severest stamp,  
And fury shook his fabrick like an earthquake:  
He heav'd for vent, and burst like bellowing *Ætna*,  
In sounds scarce human, "Hence, away for ever:

"Let her be gone, the blot of my Renown,

"And bane of all my hopes:

"Let her be driven as far as Men can think

"From Man's commerce: She'll poison to the center.

(*All the time of this Speech Cleop. seems more and more  
concern'd, 'till she sinks quite down.*)

*Cleop.* Oh, I can bear no more! (Wretch

*Dola.* Help, help, Oh Wretch! Oh cursed cursed  
What have I done?

*Char.* Help, chase her temp'es, *Iras*.

*Iras.* Bend, bend her forward quickly.

*Char.* Heav'n be prais'd,  
She comes again.

*Cleop.* Oh, let him not approach me.  
Why have you brought me back to this loath'd being,  
Th'abode of falshood, violat ed vows,  
And injur'd love? For pity, let me go;  
For if there be a place of long repose,  
I'm sure I want it. My disdainful Lord

Can never break that quiet, nor awake  
The sleeping Soul, with hollowing in my Tomb  
Such words as fright her hence. Unkind, unkind.

*Dola. kneeling*) Believe me, 'tis against my self I speak;  
That sure deserves belief; I injur'd him:  
My friend ne'er spoke those words. Oh, had you seen  
How often he came back, and every time  
With something more obliging and more kind,  
To add to what he said; what dear farewells;  
How almost vanquish'd by his love he parted,  
And lean'd to what unwillingly he left:  
I, Traitor as I was, for love of you,  
[But what can you not do, who made me false]  
I forg'd that lie; for whose forgiveness kneels  
This self-accus'd, self-punish'd Criminal.

*Cleop.* With how much ease believe we what we wish.  
Rise, *Dolabella*, if you have been guilty,  
I have contributed; and too much love  
Has made me guilty too.

Th'advance of kindness which I made, was feign'd,  
To call back fleeting Love by Jealousie;  
But 'twould not last. Oh, rather let me lose  
Than so ignobly trifle with his heart. (reach,

*Dala.* I find your breast fenc'd round from human  
Transparent as a rock of solid chrystal:  
Seen through, but never pierc'd. My Friend, my Friend!  
What endless treasure hast thou thrown away?  
And scatter'd like an Infant, in the Ocean,  
Vain sums of wealth which none can gather thence.]

*Cleop.* Could you not beg  
An hour's admittance to his private ear?  
Like one who wanders through long barren wilds,  
And yet foreknows no hospitable Inn  
Is near to succour hunger;  
He eats his fill, before his painful march:  
So would I feed a while my famish'd eye,  
Before we part; for I have far to go,  
It Death be far, and never must return.

*Ventidius, with Octavia, behind.*

*Vent.* From hence you may discover Oh, sweet,  
sweet !

Would you indeed ? the pretty hand in earnest ?

*Dolabella, taking Cleopatra by the hand.*

I will, for this reward, ——— Draw it not back,

'Tis all I e'er will beg.

*Vent.* They turn upon us.

*Octav.* What quick eyes has Guilt !

*Vent.* Seem not to have observ'd 'em, and go on,

*They Enter.*

*Dola.* Saw you the Emperor, *Ventidius* ?

*Vent.* No.

I sought him ; but I heard that he was private,  
None with him, but *Hipparchus* his Freedman.

*Dola.* Know you his bus'ness ?

*Vent.* Give him instructions,  
And Letters to his Brother *Caesar*.

*Dola.* Well.

He must be found. *(Exeunt Dola. and Cleop.)*

*Octav.* Most glorious impudence !

*Vent.* She look'd methought

As she would say, Take your old Man, *Octavia* ;

Thank you, I'm better here — Well, but what use

Make we of this discovery ?

*Octav.* Let it die.

*Vent.* I pity *Dolabella* ; but she's dangerous :  
Her eyes have pow'r beyond *Thessalian* Charms  
To draw the Moon from Heav'n : for Eloquence,  
The sea-green Syrens taught her voice their flatt'ry ;  
And, while she speaks, night steals upon the day,  
Unmark'd of those that hear. Then she's so charming,  
Age buds at sight of her, and swells to Youth.  
The holy Priests gaze on her when she smiles ;  
And with heav'd hands, forgetting gravity,  
They bless her wanton eyes. Even I who hate her,

With

With a malignant joy behold such beauty ;  
 And, while I curse, desire it. *Anthony*  
 Must needs have some remains of passion still,  
 Which may ferment into a worse relapse,  
 If now not fully cur'd. I know, this minute,  
 With *Cæsar* he's endeavouring her peace.

(pose

*Ostlav.* You have prevail'd : — but for a farther pur-  
 (Walks off.

I'll prove how he will relish this discovery.  
 What, make a Strumpet's peace ! it swells my heart :  
 It must not, sha' not be.

*Vent.* His Guards appear.

Let me begin, and you shall second me.

*Enter Anthony.*

*Anth. Ostlav.* I was looking you, my Love ;  
 What, are your Letters ready ? I have giv'n  
 My last instructions.

*Ostlav.* Mine, my Lord, are written.

*Anth. Ventidius !* (Drawing him aside.

*Vent.* My Lord ?

*Anth.* A word in private.

When saw you *Dolabella* ?

*Vent.* Now, my Lord,

He parted hence ; and *Cleopatra* with him.

*Anth.* Speak softly. 'Twas by my command he went,  
 To bear my last farewell.

*Vent. aloud.)* It look'd indeed  
 Like your farewell.

*Anth.* More softly, ——— My farewell,  
 What secret meaning have you in those words  
 Of my farewell ? He did it by my order.

*Vent. aloud.)* Then he obey'd your order. I suppose  
 You bid him do it with all gentleness,  
 All kindness and ail love.

*Anth.* How she mourn'd,  
 The poor for'aken Creature !

*Vent.* She took it as she ought ; she bore your parting  
 As she did *Cæsar's* ; as she would another's,  
 Were a new Love to come.

*Anth.*

*Anth. aloud.*) Thou dost belie her ;  
Most basely and maliciously belie her.

*Vent.* I thought not to displease you ; I have done.

*Ostau. coming up.*) You seem disturb'd, my Lord.

*Anth.* A very trifle.

Retire, my Love.

*Vent.* It was indeed a trifle.

He sent ———

*Anth. angrily.*) No more. Look how thou disobey'st  
Thy life shall answer it. (me ;

*Ostau.* Then 'tis no trifle.

*Vent. to Ostau.*) 'Tis less, a very nothing : you too saw  
As well as I, and therefore 'tis no secret. (it

*Anth.* She saw it !

*Vent.* Yes : she saw young *Dolabella* ———

*Anth.* Young *Dolabella* !

*Vent.* Young, I think him young,  
And handsome too ; and so do others think him.  
But what of that ? He went by your command,  
Indeed 'tis probable, with some kind message ;  
For she receiv'd it graciously ; she smil'd :  
And then he grew familiar with her hand,  
Squeez'd it, and worry'd it with ravenous kisses :  
She blush'd, and sigh'd, and smil'd, and blush'd again :  
At last she took occasion to talk softly,  
And brought her cheek up close, and lean'd on his :  
At which, he whisper'd kisses back on hers ;  
And then she cry'd aloud, that Constancy  
Should be rewarded.

*Ostau.* This I saw and heard. (saw ;

*Anth.* What Woman was it, whom you heard and  
So playful with my friend ? Not *Cleopatra* ?

*Vent.* Ev'n she, my Lord.

*Anth.* My *Cleopatra* ?

*Vent.* Your *Cleopatra* ;

*Dolabella's Cleopatra* ;

Every Man's *Cleopatra*.

*Anth.* Thou ly'st.

*Vent.* I do not lie, my Lord.

Is this so strange ? should Mistresses be left,

And

And not provide against a time of change ?  
You know she's not much us'd to lonely nights.

*Anth.* I'll think no more on't.

I know 'tis false, and see the Plot betwixt you.  
You needed not have gone this way, *Octavia*.  
What harms it you that *Cleopatra's* just ?  
She's mine no more. I see, and I forgive.  
Urge it no farther, Love.

*Octav.* Are you concern'd

That she's found false ?

*Anth.* I should be, were it so ;

For, though 'tis past, I would not that the World  
Should tax my former choice : That I lov'd one  
Of so light note ; but I forgive you both.

*Vent.* What has my age deserv'd, that you should  
I would abuse your ears with perjury ? (think  
If Heav'n be true, she's false.

*Anth.* Though Heav'n and Earth  
Should witness it, I'll not believe her tainted.

*Vent.* I'll bring you then a witness  
From Hell to prove her so. Nay go not back ;  
(*Seeing Alexas just entering, and starting back.*

For stay you must and shall.

*Alex.* What means my Lord ?

*Vent.* To make you do what most you hate, speak  
You are of *Cleopatra's* private Council, (truth ;  
Of her bed-Council, her lascivious hours ;  
Are conscious of each nightly change she makes,  
And watch her, as *Chaldeans* do the Moon ;  
Can tell what signs she passes through, what Day.

*Alex.* My noble Lord.

*Vent.* My most illustrious Pander,  
No fine set speech, no cadence, no turn'd periods,  
But a plain home-spun truth, is what I ask.  
I did, my self, o'er hear your Queen make love  
To *Dolabella* ; speak, for I will know,  
By your confession, what more past betwixt 'em ;  
How near the bus'ness draws to your employment ;  
And when the happy hour.

*Anth.* Speak truth, *Alexas* ; whether it offend  
Or please *Ventidius*, care not : justify

Thy

Thy injur'd Queen from malice: dare his worst.

*Ostau. aside*) See how he gives him courage! how he  
To find her false! and shuts his eyes to truth, (fears  
Willing to be misled!

*Alex.* As far as Love may plead for woman's frailty,  
Urg'd by desert and greatness of the Lover;  
So far, divine *Ostavia*, may my Queen  
Stand ev'n excus'd to you, for loving him  
Who is your Lord: so far, from brave *Ventidius*,  
May her past actions hope a fair report.

*Anth.* 'Tis well, and truly spoken: mark, *Ventidius*.

*Alex.* To you, most noble Emperor, her strong passion  
Strands not excus'd, but wholly justify'd.  
Her beauty's charms alone, without her Crown,  
From *Inde* and *Meroe* drew the distant vows  
Of fighting Kings; and at her feet were laid  
The Scepters of the Earth, expos'd on heaps;  
To chuse where she would reign.  
She thought a *Roman* only could deserve her;  
And of all *Romans* only *Anthony*;  
And, to be less than Wife to you, disdain'd  
Their lawful passion.

*Anth.* 'Tis but truth. (sees

*Alex.* And yet, though Love and your unmatch'd de-  
Have drawn her from the due regard of Honour,  
At last, Heav'n open'd her unwilling eyes  
To see the wrongs she offer'd fair *Ostavia*,  
Whose holy bed she unlawfully usurp'd.  
The sad effects of this prosperous war,  
Confirm'd those pious thoughts.

*Vent. aside.*) O, wheel you there?

Observe him now; the Man begins to mend,  
And talk substantial reason. Fear not, Eunuch,  
The Emperor has giv'n thee leave to speak.

*Alex.* Else had I never dar'd t' offend his ears:  
With what the last necessity has urg'd,  
On my forsaken Mistress. Yet I must not  
Presume to say her heart is wholly alter'd —

*Anth.* No, dare not for thy life, I charge thee dare  
Pronounce that fatal word.

(not  
*Ostau.*

*Ost.* *aside.*] Must I bear this? Good Heav'n afford  
me patience.

*Vent.* On, sweet Eunuch; my dear half Man, proceed.

*Alex.* Yet *Dolabella*

Has lov'd her long; he, next my God-like Lord,  
Deserves her best; and should she meet his passion,  
Rejected, as she is, by him she lov'd ———

*Anth.* Hence, from my sight; for I can bear no more:  
Let Furies drag thee quick to Hell; each torturing hand  
Do thou employ, 'till *Cleopatra* comes,  
Then join thou too, and help to torture her.

(*Exit Alexas, thrust out by Anthony.*)

*Ost.* 'Tis not well,  
Indeed, my Lord, 'tis much unkind to me,  
To shew this passion, this extreme concernment  
For an abandon'd, faithless Prostitute.

*Anth.* *Ostavia*, leave me: I am much disorder'd.  
Leave me, I say.

*Ost.* My Lord?

*Anth.* I bid you leave me.

*Vent.* Obey him, Madam: best withdraw a while,  
And see how this will work.

*Ost.* Wherein have I offended you, my Lord,  
That I am bid to leave you? Am I false,  
Or infamous? Am I a *Cleopatra*?  
Were I she,

Base as she is, you would not bid me leave you;  
But hang upon my neck, take slight excuses,  
And fawn upon my falsehood.

*Anth.* 'Tis too much:

Too much, *Ostavia*; I am prest with sorrows  
Too heavy to be born; and you add more:  
I would retire, and recollect what's left  
Of Man within to aid me.

*Ost.* You would mourn  
In private, for your Love, who has betray'd you.  
You did but half return to me: your kindness  
Linger'd behind with her. I hear, my Lord,  
You make conditions for her,  
And would include her Treaty. Wondrous proofs  
Of love to me!

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Are you my Friend, *Ventidius*?  
Or are you turn'd a *Dolabella* too,  
And let this Fury loose?

*Vent.* Oh, be advis'd,  
Sweet Madam, retire.

*Octav.* Yes, I will go; but never to return.  
You shall no more be haunted with this Fury.  
My Lord, my Lord, Love will not always last,  
When urg'd with long unkindness, and disdain:  
Take her again whom you prefer to me;  
She stays but to be call'd. Poor cozen'd Man!  
Let a feign'd parting give her back your heart,  
Which a feign'd love first got: for injur'd me,  
Tho' my just sense of wrongs forbid my stay,  
My duty shall be yours.  
To the dear pledges of our former love,  
My tenderness and care shall be transferr'd,  
And they shall cheer, by turns, my widow'd nights:  
So take my last farewell; for I despair  
To have you whole; and scorn to take you half. (*Ex.*)

*Vent.* I combat Heav'n which blasts my best designs:  
My last attempt must be to win her back;  
But oh I fear in vain. [*Exit.*]

*Anth.* Why was I fram'd with this plain honest heart,  
Which knows not to disguise its grief and weakness;  
But bears its workings outward to the World?

I should have kept the mighty anguish in,  
And forc'd a smile at *Cleopatra's* fallhood,  
*Octavia* had believ'd it, and had staid;  
But I am made a shallow forded stream,  
Seen to the bottom; all my clearness scorn'd,  
And all my faults expos'd! — See where he comes;  
[*Enter Dolabella.*]

Who has prophan'd the sacred name of Friend,  
And worn it into vileness!  
With how secure a brow, and specious form,  
He gilds the secret villain! Sure that face  
Was meant for honesty; but Heav'n mismatch'd it;  
And furnish'd reason out with nature's pomp,  
To make its work more easie.

*Dola.* O, my Friend!

*Anth.* Well *Dolabella*, you perform'd my message!

*Dola.* I did unwillingly.

*Anth.* Unwillingly?

Was it so hard for you to bear our parting?

You should have wish'd it.

*Dola.* Why?

*Anth.* Because you love me,

And she receiv'd my message, with as true,

With as unfeign'd a sorrow, as you brought it?

*Dola.* She loves you, even to madness.

*Anth.* Oh, I know it.

You, *Dolabella*, do not better know

How much she truly loves me. And should I

Forake this beauty? This all perfect Creature?

*Dola.* I could not, were she mine.

*Anth.* And yet you first

Persuaded me: How come you alter'd since?

*Dola.* I said at first I was not fit to go;

I could not hear her sighs, and see her tears,

But pity must prevail: and so, perhaps,

It may again with you; for I have promis'd

That she should take her last farewell: and, see,

She comes to claim my word.

*Enter Cleopatra.*

*Anth.* False *Dolabella*.

*Dola.* What's false, my Lord?

*Anth.* Why, *Dolabella's* false,

And *Cleopatra's* false; both false and faithless.

Draw near, you well join'd wickedness, you Serpents,

Whom I have, in my kindly bosom, warm'd,

'Till I am stung to death.

*Dola.* My Lord, have I

Deserv'd to be thus us'd?

*Cleop.* Can Heav'n prepare

A newer torment? Can it find a curse

Beyond our separation?

*Anth.* Yes, if Fate

Be just, much greater: Heav'n should be ingenious

In punishing such crimes. The rowling Stone,  
And gnawing Vulture, were slight pains invented  
When *Jove* was young, and no examples known  
Of mighty ills; but you have ripen'd sin  
To such a monstrous growth, 'twill pose the Gods  
To find an equal torture. Two, two such!  
Oh there's no farther name, two such — to me!  
To me, who lock'd my Soul with in your breasts,  
Had no desires, no joys, no life, but you.  
When half the Globe was mine, I gave it you  
In dowry with my heart; I had no use,  
No fruit of all, but you: a Friend and Mistress  
Was what the World could give. Oh, *Cleopatra*!  
Oh, *Dolabella*! how could you betray  
This tender heart, which with an infant-fondness  
Lay lull'd betwixt your bosoms, and there slept,  
Secure of injur'd faith?

*Dola.* It she has wrong'd you,  
Heav'n, Hell, and You revenge it.

*Anth.* If she wrong'd me,  
Thou wouldst evade thy part of guilt; but swear  
Thou lov'st her not.

*Dola.* Not so as I love you. (her.

*Anth.* Not so! Swear, swear, I say, thou dost not love

*Dola.* No more than Friendship will allow.

*Anth.* No more?

Friendship allows thee nothing: thou art perjur'd —  
And yet thou didst not swear thou lov'dst her not;  
But not so much, no more. Oh trifling Hypocrite,  
Who dar'st not own to her thou dost not love,  
Nor own to me thou dost! *Ventidius* heard it:  
*Octavia* saw it.

*Cleop.* They are Enemies.

*Anth.* *Alexas* is not so: he, he confess't it.  
He who, next Hell, best knew it, he avow'd it.  
(To *Dol.*) Why do I seek a proof beyond your self?  
You, whom I sent to bear my last farewell,  
Return'd to plead her stay.

*Dola.* What shall I answer?

If to have lov'd be guilt, then I have sinn'd:

76 *ALL for LOVE: Or,*

But if to have repented of that love  
Can wash away my crime, I have repented.  
Yet, if I have offended past forgiveness,  
Let not her suffer ; she is innocent.

*Cleop.* Ah, what will not a Woman do who loves !  
What means will she refuse, to keep that heart  
Where all her joys are plac'd ! 'Twas I encourag'd,  
'Twas I blew up that fire that scorch'd his soul,  
To make you jealous ; and by that regain you.  
But all in vain ; I cou'd not counterfeit :  
In spite of all the dams, my love broke o'er,  
And drown'd my heart again : Fate took th' occasion ;  
And thus one minure's feigning has destroy'd  
My whole life's truth.

*Anth.* Thin cobweb-arts of falshood ;  
Seen, and broke through at first.

*Dola.* Forgive your Mistrels.

*Cleop.* Forgive your Friend.

*Anth.* You have convinc'd your selves,  
You plead each other's cause : What Witness have you,  
That you but meant to raise my jealousy ?

*Cleop.* Our selves, and Heav'n. (Friendship,

*Anth.* Guilt witnesses for guilt. Hence Love and  
You have no longer place in human breasts,  
These two have driv'n you out. Avoid my sight ;  
I would not kill the Man whom I have lov'd ;  
And cannot hurt the Woman ; but avoid me,  
I do not know how long I can be tame ;  
For, if I stay one minute more to think  
How I am wrong'd, my justice and revenge  
Will cry to loud within me, that my pity  
Will not be heard for either.

*Dola.* Heav'n has but  
Our sorrow for our sins, and then delights  
To pardon erring Man : sweet mercy seems  
Its darling attribute, which limits justice ;  
As if there were degrees in infinite ;  
And infinite would rather want perfection  
Than punish to extent.

*Anth.*

*Anth.* I can forgive

A Foe ; but not a Mistress, and a Friend :  
Treason is there in its most horrid shape,  
Where trust is greatest ; and the Soul resign'd  
Is stabb'd by its own Guards : I'll hear no more ;  
Hence from my sight for ever.

*Cleop.* How ? for ever !

I cannot go one moment from your sight,  
And must I go for ever ?  
My joys, my only joys are center'd here.  
What place have I to go to ? My own Kingdom ?  
That I have lost for you : or to the *Romans* ?  
They hate me for your sake : or must I wander  
The wide World o'er, a helpless, banish'd Woman ?  
Banish'd for love of you ; banish'd from you ?  
Ay, there's the banishment ! Oh hear me ; hear me,  
With strictest justice ; For I beg no favour :  
And if I have offended you, then kill me,  
But do not banish me.

*Anth.* I must not hear you :

I have a Fool within me takes your part,  
But honour stops my ears.

*Cleop.* For pity hear me,  
Would you cast off a Slave who follow'd you,  
Who crouch'd beneath your spurn ? — He has no pity !  
See, he gives one tear to my departure ;  
One look, one kind farewell : Oh iron heart !  
Let all the Gods look down, and judge betwixt us,  
If he did ever love !

*Anth.* No more, *Alexas* !

*Dola.* A perjur'd Villain !

*Anth.* to *Cleop.*) Your *Alexas* ; yours.

*Cleop.* O 'twas his plot : His ruinous design  
To engage you in my love by jealousy.  
Hear him ; confront him with me ; let him speak.

*Anth.* I have ; I have.

*Cleop.* And if he clear me not ——— (smiles,

*Anth.* Your Creature ! one who hangs upon your  
Watches your eye to say or to unsay  
Whatever you please ! I am not to be mov'd.

*Cleop.* Then must we part? Farewel, my cruel Lord,  
Th' appearance is against me; and I go  
Unjustifi'd, for ever from your sight.  
How I have lov'd, you know; how yet I love,  
My only comfort is, I know my self:  
I love you more, even now you are unkind,  
Than when you lov'd me most: so well, so truly,  
I'll never strive against it; but die pleas'd  
To think you once were mine.

*Anth.* Good Heav'n, they weep at parting.  
Must I weep too? That calls 'em innocent.  
I must not weep; and yet I must, to think  
That I must not forgive ———

Live; but live wretched: 'tis but just you shou'd,  
Who made me so: Live from each other's sight:  
Let me not hear you meet: Set all the Earth,  
And all the Seas betwixt your sunder'd loves:  
View nothing common but the Sun and Skies.  
Now, all take several ways;

And each your own sad fate with mine deplore;  
That you were false, and I could trust no more.

(*Exeunt severally.*)

## A C T V.

Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras.

*Charmion.*

**B**E juster, Heav'n: such Virtue punish'd thus,  
Will make us think that Chance rules all above,  
And shuffles, with a random hand, the lots  
Which Man is forc'd to draw.

(*heart,*

*Cleop.* I could tear out these eyes, that gain'd his  
And had not pow'r to keep it. O the curse  
Of doting on, ev'n when I find it dotage!  
Bear witness, Gods, you heard him bid me go;  
You whom he mock'd with imprecating vows

Of promis'd faith——I'll die, I will not bear it.

*(She pulls out her dagger, and they hold her.)*

You may hold me——

But I can keep my breath ; I can die inward,  
And choak this love.

*Enter Alexas.*

*Iras.* Help, O *Alexas* help !

The Queen grows desperate, her Soul struggles in her ;  
With all the agonies of love and rage,  
And strives to force its passage.

*Cleop.* Let me go.

Art thou there, Traitor !——O,  
O, for a little breath to vent my rage !  
Give, give me way, and let me loose upon him.

*Alex.* Yes, I deserve it, for my ill tim'd truth,  
Was it for me to prop  
The ruins of a falling Majesty ?  
To place my self beneath the mighty flaw,  
Thus to be crush'd, and pounded into atoms,  
By its o'erwhelming weight ? 'Tis too presuming  
For subjects, to preserve that wilful pow'r  
Which courts it's own destruction.

*Cleop.* I wou'd reason  
More calmly with you. Did not you o'er-rule,  
And force my plain, direct, and open love  
Into these crooked paths of Jealousie ?  
Now, what's th'event ? *Octavia* is remov'd ;  
But *Cleopatra*'s banish'd. Thou, thou, Villain,  
Hast push'd my boat to open Sea ; to prove,  
At my sad cost, if thou can'st steer it back.  
It cannot be ; I'm lost too far ; I'm ruin'd :  
Hence, thou Impostor, Traitor, Monster Devil—  
I can no more : thou and my griefs, have sunk  
Me down so low, that I want voice to curse thee.

*Alex.* Suppose some shipwreck'd Seaman near the  
Drooping and faint, with climbing up the cliff, (shore  
If, from above, some charitable hand  
Pull him to safety, hazarding himself

To

To draw the other's weight ; wou'd he look back  
And curse him for his pains ; The case is yours :  
But one step more, and you have gain'd the height,  
*Cleop.* Sunk, never more to rise.

*Alex.* *Octavia's* gone, and *Dolabella* banish'd.  
Believe me, Madam, *Anthony* is yours.  
His heart was never lost ; but started off  
To Jealousie, Love's last retreat and covert :  
Where it lies hid in shades, watchful in silence,  
And list'ning for the sound that calls it back.  
Some other, any Man, ('tis so advanc'd)  
May perfect this unfinish'd work, which I  
(Unhappy only to my self) have left  
So easie to his hand.

*Cleop.* Look well thou do't ; else—

*Alex.* Else, what your silence threatens— *Anthony*  
Is mounted up the *Pharos* ; from whose turret,  
He stands surveying our *Ægyptian* Gallies,  
Engag'd with *Cæsar's* Fleet. Now Death or Conquest.  
If the first happen, Fate acquits my promise :  
If we o'ercome, the Conqueror is yours.

*A distant shout within.*

*Char.* Have comfort, Madam : Did you mark that  
(shout ?

*Second shout nearer.*

*Iras.* Hark ; they redouble it.

*Alex.* 'Tis from the Port.

The loudness shews it near : Good News kind Heavens.

*Cleop.* *Osiris* make it so.

*Enter Serapion.*

*Serap.* Where, where's the Queen ?

*Alex.* How frightfully the holy Coward stares ?  
As if not yet recover'd of th'assault,  
When all his Gods, and what's more dear to him,  
His offerings were at stake.

*Serap.* O horror, horror !

*Ægypt* has been : our latest hour is come :  
The Queen of Nations, from her ancient seat.

Is sunk for ever in the dark abyſs :  
Time has unroll'd her Glories to the laſt,  
And now clos'd up the volume.

*Cleop.* Be more plain :  
Say, whence thou com'ſt ; though Fate is in thy face,  
Which from thy haggard eyes looks wildly out,  
And threatens e're thou ſpeak'ſt.

*Serap.* I come from *Pharos* ;  
From viewing (ſpare me, and imagine it)  
Our Land's laſt hope, your Navy . . .

*Cleop.* Vanquiſh'd ?

*Serap.* No.

They fought not.

*Cleop.* Then they fled.

*Serap.* Nor that. I ſaw,

With *Anthony*, your well appointed Fleet  
Row out ; and thrice he wav'd his hand on high,  
And thrice with cheerful cries they ſhouted back.  
'Twas then, falſe fortune like a fawning Strumpet,  
About to leave the bankrupt Prodigal,  
With a diſſembling ſmile would kiſs at parting,  
And flatter to the laſt. The well-tim'd Oars  
Now dipt from every bank, now ſmoothly run  
To meet the Foe ; and loon indeed they met ;  
But not as Foes. In ſew, we ſaw their Caps  
On either ſide thrown up ; th' *Ægyptian* Gallies  
Receiv'd like Friends, paſt through, and fell behind  
The *Roman* rear : and now they all come forward,  
And ride within the Port.

*Cleop.* Enough, *Serapion* :  
I've heard my doom. This needed not, you Gods :  
When I loſt *Anthony*, your work was done ;  
'Tis but ſuperfluous malice. Where's my Lord ?  
How bears he this laſt blow ?

*Serap.* His fury cannot be expreſs'd by words :  
Thrice he attempted headlong to have ſaln  
Full on his Foes, and aim'd at *Caſar's* Galley.  
With-held, he raves on you ; Cries, he's betray'd !  
Should he not find you.—

*Alex.*

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*Alex.* Shun him, seek your safety,  
Till you can clear your Innocence.

*Cleop.* I'll stay.

*Alex.* You must not : haste you to your Monument,  
While I make speed to *Caesar*.

*Cleop. Caesar !* No,  
I have no business with him.

*Alex.* I can work him,  
To spare your life, and let this Madman perish.

*Cleop.* Base fawning Wretch ! Wouldst thou betray  
him too ?

Hence from my sight, I will not hear a Traitor :  
Twas thy design brought all this ruin on us.

*Serapion*, thou art honest ; counsel me :

But haste, each moment's precious.

*Serap.* Retire ; you must not yet see *Anthony*.  
He who began this mischief,  
'Tis just he tempt the danger : Let him clear you ;  
And, since he offer'd you his servile tongue,  
To gain a poor precarious life from *Caesar* ;  
Let him expose that fawning eloquence,  
And speak to *Anthony*.

*Alex.* O Heav'ns ! I dare not,  
I meet my certain death.

*Cleop.* Slave, thou deserv'st it.  
Not that I fear my Lord, will I avoid him ;  
I know him noble : When he banish'd me ;  
And thought me false, he scorn'd to take my life :  
But I'll be justify'd, and then die with him.

*Alex.* O pity me, and let me follow you. (canst,

*Cleop.* To death, if thou stir hence speak, if thou  
Now for thy life, which basely thou would'st save,  
While mine I prize at this. Come, good *Serapion*.

[*Exeunt Cleop. Serap. Char. Iras.*]

*Alex.* O that I less cou'd fear to lose this being ;  
Which, like a snow-ball in my coward hand,  
The more 'tis grasp'd, the faster melts away.  
Poor reason ! What a wretched aid art thou ?  
For still in spight of thee,  
These two long lovers, soul and body, dread  
Their final separation. Let me think :

What

What can I say to save my self from death?

No matter what becomes of *Cleopatra*.

*Anth. within.* Which way, where?

*Vent. within.* This leads to the monument.

*Alex.* Ah me! I hear him; yet I'm unprepar'd:

My gift of lying's gone;

And this court devil, which I so oft have rais'd,

Forbakes me at my need. I dare not stay;

Yet cannot far go hence.

(*Exit.*)

*Enter Anthony and Ventidius.*

*Anth.* O happy *Cæsar*! thou hast men to lead:

Think not, 'tis thou hast conquer'd *Anthony*,

But *Rome* his conquer'd *Ægypt*. I'm betray'd.

*Vent.* Curse on this treach'rous train!

Their soil and heav'n infect 'em all with baseness:

And their young Souls come tainted to the world

With the first breath they draw.

*Anth.* Th' original villain sure no God created;

He was a bastard of the Sun, by *Nile*,

Ap'd into man; with all his mother's mud

Crusted about his soul.

*Vent.* The Nation is

One Universal Traitor; and their Queen

The very spirit and extract of 'em all.

*Anth.* Is there yet left

A possibility of aid from Valour?

Is there one God unsworn to my destruction?

The least unmortgag'd hope? For, if there be,

Methinks I cannot fall beneath the Fate

Of such a Boy as *Cæsar*.

The world's one half is yet in *Anthony*:

And, from each limb of it that's hew'd away,

The Soul comes back to me.

*Vent.* There yet remain

Three Legions in the Town. The last Assault

Lopt off the rest: If Death be your design,

(As I must wish it now) these are sufficient

To make a heap about us of dead Foes,

An honest Pile for burial.

*Anth.*

*Anth.* They're enough.

We'll not divide our Stars; but side by side  
Fight emulous: And with malicious eyes  
Survey each other's acts: So every Death  
Thou giv'st, I'll take on me, as a just debt,  
And pay thee back a Soul.

*Vent.* Now you shall see I love you. Not a word  
Of chiding more. By my few hours of life,  
I am so pleas'd with this brave *Roman* Fate,  
That I wou'd not be *Cesar*, to out-live you.  
When we put off this flesh, and mount together,  
I shall be shewn to all th' *Ethereal* crowd:  
Lo, this is he who dy'd with *Anthony*.

*Anth.* Who knows but we may pierce through all  
their Troops,  
And reach my Veterans yet? 'Tis worth th' attempting,  
T'o'er-leap this gulph of Fate,  
And leave our wand'ring Destinies behind

*Enter Alexas, trembling*

*Vent.* See, see that Villain;  
See *Cleopatra* stamp't upon that face,  
With all her cunning, all her arts of falsehood?  
How he looks out through those dissembling eyes!  
See how he sets his count'nance for deceit;  
And promises a lie, before he speaks.  
Let me dispatch him first.

*(Drawing.)*

*Alex.* O spare me, spare me.

*Anth.* Hold, he's not worth your killing On thy life.  
(Which thou may'st keep, because I scorn to take it)  
No syllable to justify thy Queen;  
Save thy base tongue its office.

*Alex.* Sir, she's gone,  
Where she shall never be molested more  
By Love, or you.

*Anth.* Fled to her *Dolabella*!  
Die, Traitor, I revoke my promise, die.

*(Going to kill him.)*

*Alex.* O hold, she is not fled.

*Anth.*

*Anth.* She is. My eyes  
Are open to her falsehood ; my whole life  
Has been a golden dream of Love and Friendship.  
But, now I wake, I'm like a Merchant, row'd  
From soft repose to see his Vessel sinking,  
And all his wealth cast o'er. Ingrateful Woman !  
Who follow'd me, but as the Swallow Summer,  
Hatching her young ones in my kindly beams,  
Singing her Flatt'ries to my morning wake ;  
But, now my Winter comes, she spreads her wings,  
And seeks the Spring of *Caesar*.

*Alex.* Think not so :  
Her fortunes have, in all things, mixt with yours.  
Had she betray'd her Naval force to *Rome*,  
How easily might she have gone to *Caesar*,  
Secure by such a bribe ?

*Vent.* She sent it first,  
To be more welcome after.

*Anth.* 'Tis too plain ;  
Else wou'd she have appear'd, to clear herself.

*Alex.* Too fatally she has ; she could not bear  
To be accus'd by you ? but shut herself  
Within her Monument : Look'd down, and sigh'd ;  
While, from her unchang'd face, the silent tears  
Dropt, as they had not leave, but stole their parting,  
Some undistinguish'd words she inly murmur'd ;  
At last, she rais'd her eyes ; and, with such looks  
As dying *Lucrece* cast.—

*Anth.* My heart forebodes.—

*Vent.* All for the best : go on.

*Alex.* She snatch'd her poniard,  
And, e're we cou'd prevent the fatal blow,  
Plung'd it within her breast : Then turn'd to me,  
Go, bear my Lord, said she, my last farewell.  
And ask him if he yet suspect my faith.  
More she was saying, but Death rush'd betwixt.  
She half pronounc'd your name with her last breath,  
And bury'd half within her.

*Vent.* Heav'n be prais'd.

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Then art thou innocent, my poor dear Love?  
And art thou dead?

O those two words! their sound should be divided.  
Hadst thou been false, and dy'd; or hadst thou liv'd,  
And hadst been true—But innocence and Death!  
This show's not well above. Then what am I?  
The Murderer of this Truth, this Innocence!  
Thoughts cannot form themselves in words so horrid  
As can express my guilt!

*Vent.* Is't come to this? The Gods have been too gra-  
(cious

And thus you thank 'em for't.

*Anth. to Alex.)* Why stay'st thou here?  
Is it for thee to spy upon my Soul,  
And see its inward mourning? Get thee hence;  
Thou art not worthy to behold, what now  
Becomes a *Roman* Emperor to perform.

*Alex. aside.)* He loves her still:  
His grief betrays it. Good! the joy to find  
She's yet alive, compleats the reconciliation.  
I've sav'd my self, and her. But oh! The *Romans*!  
Fate comes too fast upon my wit,  
Hunts me too hard, and meets me at each double.

(Exit.

*Vent.* Would she had dy'd a little sooner though,  
Before *Octavia* went; you might have treated:  
Now 'twill look tame, and would not be receiv'd.  
Come rouse your self, and let's die warm together.

*Anth.* I will not fight: There's no more work for  
The bus'ness of my angry hours is done. (War;

*Vent.* *Caesar* is at your Gates.

*Anth.* Why, let him enter;  
He's welcome now.

*Vent.* What lethargy has crept into your soul?

*Anth.* 'Tis but a scorn of life, and just desire  
To free my self from bondage.

*Vent.* Do it bravely.

*Anth.* I will; but not by fighting. O *Ventidius*!  
What should I fight for now? My Queen is dead,  
I was but great for her; my Pow'r, my Empire,

Were

Were but my merchandise to buy her love :  
And conquer'd Kings, my Factors. Now she's dead,  
Let *Casar* take the World, ———  
An empty circle, since the Jewel's gone,  
Which made it worth my strife : My being's nauseous ;  
For all the bribes of life are gone away.

*Vent.* Would you be taken ?

*Anth.* Yes, I would be taken ;

But, as a *Roman* ought, dead, my *Ventidius* :  
For I'll convey my Soul from *Casar*'s reach,  
And lay down life my self. 'Tis time the World  
Should have a Lord, and know whom to obey.  
We two have kept its homage in suspense,  
And bent the Globe on whose each side we trod,  
'Till it was dinted inwards : Let him walk  
Alone upon't ; I'm weary of my part.  
My torch is out ; and the World stands before me  
Like a black desert, at th' approach of night :  
I'll lay me down, and stray no farther on.

*Vent.* I could be griev'd,

But that I'll not out-live you. Chuse your death ;  
For, I have seen him in such various shapes,  
I care not which I take : I'm only troubled,  
The life I bear is worn to such a rag,  
'Tis scarce worth giving. I could wish indeed  
We threw it from us with a better grace ;  
That, like two Lions taken in the toils,  
We might at last thrust out our paws, and wound  
The Hunters that inclose us.

*Anth.* I have thought on't,

*Ventidius*, you must live.

*Vent.* I must not, Sir.

*Anth.* Wilt thou not live, to speak some good of me ?  
To stand by my fair Fame, and guard th' approaches  
From the ill tongues of Men ?

*Vent.* Who shall guard mine,  
For living after you ?

*Anth.* Say, I command it.

*Vent.* If we die well, our deaths will speak themselves,  
And need no living witness.

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*Anth.* Thou hast lov'd me,  
And fain I would reward thee: I must die;  
Kill me, and take the merit of my death  
To make thee friends with *Cæsar*.

*Vent.* I thank your kindness.  
You said I lov'd you; and in recompence,  
You bid me turn a Traitor: Did I think  
You would have us'd me thus? That I should die  
With a hard thought of you?

*Anth.* Forgive me, *Roman*.  
Since I have heard of *Cleopatra's* death,  
My reason bears no rule upon my tongue,  
But lets my thoughts break all at random out.  
I've better thought; do not deny me twice.

*Vent.* By Heav'n, I will not;  
Let it not be t' out-live you.

*Anth.* Kill me first,  
And then die thou: for 'tis but just thou serve  
Thy Friend before thy self.

*Vent.* Give me your hand.  
We soon shall meet again. Now, farewell, my Emperor.  
(*Embrace.*)

Methinks that word's too cold to be my last:  
Since Death sweeps all distinctions, farewell Friend.  
That's all ———

I will not make a bus'ness of a trifle:  
And yet I cannot look on you, and kill you;  
Pray turn your face.

*Anth.* I do: Strike home, and sure.

*Vent.* Home as my sword will reach.

(*Kills himself.*)

*Anth.* O thou mistak'st;  
That wound was none of thine, give it me back;  
Thou robb'st me of my Death.

*Vent.* I do indeed;  
But, think 'tis the first time I e'er deceiv'd you;  
If that may plead my pardon. And you Gods,  
Forgive me, if you will; for I die perjur'd,  
Rather than kill my Friend.

(*Dies.*)

*Anth.*

*Anth.* Farewel. Ever my Leader, ev'n in death!  
My Queen and thou have got the start of me,  
And I'm the lag of Honour. — Gone so soon in ?  
Is Death no more ? he us'd him carelessly,  
With a familiar kindness : ere he knock'd,  
Ran to the door, and took him in his arms,  
As who should say, y'are welcome at all hours;  
A Friend need give no warning, Books had spoil'd him;  
For all the Learn'd are Cowards by profession.

'Tis not worth

My farther thought : For Death, for ought I know;  
Is but to think no more. Here's to be satisfy'd.

(Falls on his Sword.

I've mis'd my heart. O unperforming hand !  
Thou never cou'dst have err'd in a worse time.  
My Fortune jades me to the last ; and Death,  
Like a great Man, takes state, and makes me wait  
For my admittance ———

(Trampling within.

Some perhaps from *Cæsar* :

If he shou'd find me living, and suspect:

That I plaid booby with my life. I'll mend

My work, ere they can reach me. (Rises upon his knees.

Enter Cleopatra, Charmion, Iras.

*Cleop.* Where is my Lord ? Where is he ?

*Char.* There he lyes,

And dead *Ventidius* by him.

*Cleop.* My Fears were Prophets ; I am come too late.

O that accurs'd *Alexas* !

(Runs to him.

*Anth.* Art thou living ?

Or am I dead before I knew ? And thou

The first kind Ghost that meets me ?

*Cleop.* Help me seat him.

Send quickly, send for help.

(They place him in a Chair.

*Anth.* I am answer'd.

We live both. Sit thee down, my *Cleopatra* :

I'll make the most I can of life, to stay

A moment more with thee.

*Cleop.* How is it with you?

*Anth.* 'Tis as with a Man

Removing in a hurry; all pack'd up,  
But one dear jewel that his haste forgot;  
And he, for that returns upon the spur:  
So I come back for thee.

(to me)

*Cleop.* Too long, you Heav'ns, you have been cruel  
Now shew your mended faith, and give me back  
His fleeting life.

*Anth.* It will not be, my Love.

I keep my soul by force.

Say but thou art not false.

*Cleop.* 'Tis now too late.

To say I'm true; I'll prove it and die with you.  
Unknown to me, *Alexas* feign'd my death:  
Which, when I knew, I hasten'd to prevent  
This fatal consequence. My Fleet betray'd  
Both you and me.

*Anth.* And *Dolabella* ———

*Cleop.* Scarce esteem'd before he lov'd; but hated now.

*Anth.* Enough; my life's not long enough for more:  
Thou say'st thou wilt come after: I believe thee;  
For I can now believe what e'er thou say'st,  
That we may part more kindly.

*Cleop.* I will come:

Doubt not, my life, I'll come and quickly too.  
*Cesar* shall triumph o'er no part of thee.

*Anth.* But grieve not, while thou stay'st,  
My last disastrous times:

Think we have had a clear and glorious day:  
And Heav'n did kindly to delay the storm  
Just till our close of ev'ning. Ten Years love;  
And not a moment lost, but all improv'd  
To th' utmost joys: What ages have we liv'd?  
And now to die each other's, and, so dying,  
While hand in hand we walk in groves below,  
Whole troops of Lovers Ghosts shall flock about us,  
And all the train be ours.

*Cleop.* Your words are like the notes of dying Swans  
Too sweet to last. Were there so many hours  
For your unkindness, and not one for love?

*Anth.*

*Anth.* No, not a minute,-- This one kiss---more worth  
Than all I leave to *Caesar*. (*dies.*)

*Cleop.* O, tell me so again ;  
And take ten thousand kisses, for that word.  
My Lord, my Lord : Speak, if you yet have being ;  
Sigh to me, if you cannot speak ; or cast  
One look : do any thing that shows you live.

*Iras.* He's gone too far, to hear you ;  
And this you see a lump of senseless clay,  
The leavings of a Soul.

*Char.* Remember, Madam.  
He charg'd you not to grieve.

*Cleop.* And I'll obey him.  
I have not lov'd a *Roman*, not to know  
What should become his wife ; his wife, my *Charmion* ;  
For 'tis to that high title I aspire ;  
And now I'll not die less. Let dull *Octavia*  
Survive, to mourn him dead : My nobler Fate  
Shall knit our spousals with a tie too strong  
For *Roman* laws to break.

*Iras.* Will you then die ?

*Cleop.* Why shou'dst thou make that question ?

*Iras.* *Caesar's* most merciful.

*Cleo.* Let him be so  
To those that want his mercy. My poor Lord  
Made no such cov'nant with him, to spare me  
When he was dead. Yield me to *Caesar's* pride !  
What, to be led in triumph through the streets,  
A spectacle to base *Plbeian* eyes ;  
While some dejected Friend of *Anthony's*,  
Close in a corner, shakes his head, and mutters  
A secret curse on her who ruin'd him ?  
I'll none of that.

*Char.* Whatever you resolve,  
I'll follow ev'n to Death.

*Iras.* I only fear'd  
For you ; but more shou'd fear to live without you.

*Cleop.* Why, now, 'tis as it shou'd be quick, my Friends  
Dispatch ; ere this the town's in *Caesar's* hands :  
My Lord looks down concern'd and fears my stay,

Left

Lest I should be surpriz'd:  
 Keep him not waiting for his love too long.  
 You, *Charmion*, bring my Crown and richest Jewels;  
 With 'em, the wreath of Victory I made  
 (Vain Augury!) for him who now lies dead;  
 You, *Iras*, bring the cure of all our ills.

*Iras*. The Aspicks, Madam?

*Cleop*. Must I bid you twice? (*Ex. Char. and Iras*.  
 'Tis sweet to die, when they wou'd force life on me,  
 To rush into the dark abode of Death,  
 And seize him first; if he be like my Love,  
 He is not frightful sure.  
 We're now alone, in secrecy and silence,  
 And is not this like Lovers? I may kiss  
 These pale, cold lips; *Octavia* does not see me,  
 And, oh! 'tis better far to have him thus,  
 Than see him in her arms. — O welcome, welcome.

*Enter Charmion, Iras.*

*Char*. What must be done?

*Cleop*. Short ceremony, Friends:  
 But yet it must be decent. First, this Laurel  
 Shall crown my Hero's head: He fell not bare,  
 Nor left his shield behind him. Only thou  
 Could'st triumph o'er thy self; and thou alone  
 Wert worthy so to triumph.

*Char*. To what end  
 These ensigns of your Pomp and Royalty?

*Cleop*. Dull, that thou art! Why, 'tis to meet my Love;  
 As when I saw him first, on *Cydnos* bank,  
 All sparkling, like a Goddess, so adorn'd,  
 I'll find him once again. My second spou'sals  
 Shall match my first in glory. Haste, haste, both,  
 And dress the Bride of *Anthony*.

*Char*. 'Tis done.  
 Now seat me by my Lord. I claim this place;  
 For I must conquer *Cesar* too, like him,  
 And win my share o' th' World. Hail, you dear relicks  
 Of my immortal Love.

O let no impious hand remove you hence;  
But rest for ever here: let *Ægypt* give  
His death that peace, which it deny'd his life.  
Reach me the casket.

*Iras.* Underneath the fruit the Aspick lyes. (ceiver!

*Cleop.* putting aside the leaves.) Welcome thou kind de-  
Thou best of Thieves, who with an easie key  
Dost open life, and unperceiv'd by us,  
Ev'n steal us from our selves; discharging so  
Death's dreadful office better than himself;  
Touching our limbs so gently into slumber,  
That Death stands by, deceiv'd by his own image,  
And thinks himself but Sleep.

*Serap. wishin.*) The Queen, where is she?  
The town is yielded, *Cæsar's* at the gates.

*Cleop.* He comes too late to invade the rights of Death:  
Haste, bare my arm, and rouse the Serpent's fury.

(Holds out her arm and draws it back.

Coward flesh ———

Would thou conspire with *Cæsar*, to betray me,  
As thou wert none of mine? I'll force thee to't,  
And not be sent by him,  
But bring my self, my Soul to *Anthony*.

(Turns aside, and then shows her arm bloody.

Take hence; the work is done.

*Serap. wishin.*) Break ope' the door,  
And guard the Traitor well.

*Char.* The next is ours.

*Iras.* Now, *Charmion*, to be worthy  
Of our great Queen and Mistress.

(They apply the Aspicks.

*Cleop.* Already, death, I feel thee in my veins;  
I go with such a will to find my Lord,  
That we shall quickly meet.

A heavy numbness creeps through every limb,  
And now 'tis at my head: My eye-lids fall,  
And my dear Love is vanish'd in a mist.

Where shall I find him, where? O turn me to him,  
And lay me on his breast ——— *Cæsar*, thy worst;  
Now part us, if thou canst. Dies.

*Iras*

*Iras sinks down at her feet, and dies.*  
*Charmion stands behind her chair, as dressing her head.*  
*Enter Serapion, two Priests, Alexas bound, Egyptians.*

*2 Priests.* Behold, Serapion, what havock Death has made!

*Serap.* 'Twas what I fear'd:

*Charmion,* is this well done?

*Char.* Yes 'tis well done, and like a Queen; the last  
 Of her great Race: I follow her.

*(Sinks down and dies.)*

*Alex.* 'Tis true,  
 She has done well: Much better thus to die,  
 Than live to make a Holy-day in Rome.

*Serap.* See, how the Lovers sit in State together,  
 As they were giving Laws to half Mankind.  
 Th' impression of a smile left in her face,  
 Shews she dy'd pleas'd with him for whom she liv'd,  
 And went to charm him in another World.  
*Caesar's* just entring, grief has now no leisure.  
 Secure that Villain, as our pledge of safety  
 To grace th' Imperial Triumph. Sleep, blest Pair,  
 Secure from human chance, long Ages out,  
 While all the storms of Fate fly o'er your Tomb;  
 And Fame to late Posterity shall tell,  
 No Lovers liv'd so great, nor dy'd so well.





# EPILOGUE.

**P**Oets, like Disputants, when reasons fail,  
 Have one sure refuge left; and that's to rail.  
 Fop, Coxcomb, Fool, are thunder'd through the Pit;  
 And this is all their equipage of wit.  
 We wonder how the Dev'l this difference grows,  
 Betwixt our Fools in verse, and yours in prose;  
 For, faith, the quarrel rightly understood,  
 'Tis Civil-war with their own flesh and blood.  
 The thread-bare Author hates the gawdy coat;  
 And swears at the gilt-coach, but swears afoot.  
 For 'tis observ'd of every scribbling Man,  
 He grows a Fop as fast as e'er he can;  
 Prunes up, and asks his Oracle, the Glass,  
 If pink or purple best becomes his face.  
 For our poor Wretch, he neither rails nor prays;  
 Nor likes your wit just as you like his Plays;  
 He has not yet so much of Mr. Bays.  
 He does his best; and if he cannot please,  
 Wou'd quietly sue out his Writ of ease.  
 Yet, if he might his own Grand-Jury call,  
 By the fair Sex he begs to stand or fall,  
 Let Cæsar's pow'r the Mens ambition move,  
 But grace you him who lost the world for Love.  
 Yet if some antiquated Lady say,  
 The last Age is not copy'd in his Play;

Heav'n

*Heav'n help the Man who for that face must drudge,  
Which only has the wrinkles of a Judge.*

*Let not the young and beauteous join with those ;*

*For shou'd you raise such numerous hosts of Foes.*

*Young Wits and Sparks be to his aid must call ;*

*'Tis more than one Man's work to please you all.*

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*F I N I S.*

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